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**1 OF 2**

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JPRS L/8815

13 December 1979

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 52/79)



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WORLDWIDE REPORT  
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

ROYAL COMMISSIONS REPORT, NARCOTICS BUREAU DISBANDED

Woodward NSW Commission Report

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Nov 79 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ken Hooper and Peter Young]

[Text] The Federal Government has announced it will abandon its Narcotics Bureau, only hours after the Woodward Royal Commission into drug-trafficking attacked the bureau for failing to co-operate with State police forces.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, revealed last night that the bureau's role would be taken over by the new Australian Federal Police as part of a crackdown on organised crime, drug-running and prostitution.

The NSW commission, in a report tabled in State Parliament yesterday, found that "The Honored Society"--a secret society founded in Italy--killed the anti-drug campaigner, Donald Mackay.

The society allegedly decided to kill him because it believed he was a link between an informer in its ranks and the police.

Mr Justice Woodward in his 2080-page report names 16 members of the society, L'Onerata Societa, based in the NSW town of Griffith, and questions their alibis at the time of Mr Mackay's disappearance in July 1977.

He also calls for the re-opening of an internal police inquiry into the conduct of a policeman stationed at Griffith at the time, Det Sgt Kenneth Ellis, and says it should be extended to include two other officers, named as Det Snr Constable Borthwick and Det Constable Robins.

The Woodward report makes 89 recommendations covering drug laws, penalties and crime intelligence-gathering and rejects suggestions that marijuana should be decriminalised.

Four in prison

The report:

Suggests the setting up of a Federal-State Crime Intelligence Unit and attacks the Federal Narcotics Bureau for the way in which it refuses to pass on information to State police forces.

**RECOMMENDS** the unit use the latest electronic bugging devices, tap telephone conversations and collate, analyse, interpret and disseminate information on organised crime.

**SAYS** Australia's customs officers intercept only 10 per cent of imported heroin and that marijuana use and heroin addiction are a growing problem in Australia.

**REJECTS** suggestions that there is a "Mr Big" masterminding the heroin trade, but says there are six loose criminal confederations based in Sydney and largely controlling heroin trafficking. The report says four of the six principals are in jail, but the group structure allows the trafficking to continue.

**OUTLINES** the operations of the "Chinese Connection", in which members of Australia's Chinese community, through secrecy and shipping connections, play a major role in the supply of drugs. The report also refers to a group of Sydney criminals of French nationality smuggling heroin from New Caledonia inside typewriters.

**ESTIMATES** there were 9257 heroin addicts in 1978 who spent \$59 million on their addiction.

**MAKES** it clear that Australia's major heroin importers, despite their massive profit levels, are characterised by ineptitude and "grandiose and impractical plans".

**RECOMMENDS** the introduction of a wide legislative program to extend the detection and enforcement powers of the NSW police.

The new laws would allow police to enter premises without warrants, allow search warrants to be obtained by telephone or two-way radio in an emergency, allow random searches of vehicles and give police the right to intercept mails, and radio and telephone communications suspected of being linked with drug running.

**WARNS** that The Honored Society is unlikely to stop its activities just because of the report and suggests that a senior police officer be detailed to watch the activities of the people named in the Riverina drug ring.

**SUGGESTS** that fines for drug offences should be raised from the maximum of \$50,000 to \$200,000, with people convicted of drug offences losing property or money obtained through drug activities.

**OUTLINES** widespread "laundering" of millions of dollars of illegally obtained cash and the "paper trail" followed by the commission to uncover money "washed" through businesses and gambling houses.

The report says one of the easiest ways to "launder" money is to buy chips at a legal gambling house, cash them without gambling and obtain a cheque.

**ATTACKS** Australia's lack of support for American, United Nations and European drug agency efforts in the "Golden Triangle" in South-East Asia. It also criticises the Federal Narcotics Bureau for having only one agent in Bangkok, who has no transport, office staff or back-up assistance.

**WARNS** that in spite of United Nations attempts to replace heroin farms in the Golden Triangle with legitimate rural enterprises, there will be no short-term solution to the problem, and countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and even India could become sources of the drug.

**SAYS** the system of organised crime within Australia is ripe for a takeover by crime syndicate monopolies. It warns that fringe operations can hide behind legitimate business with growing ease because of increasing reliance on electronic data-processing and other sophisticated aids.

The commission says offers of big financial rewards lead to corruption and it is not unrealistic to postulate growing numbers of lawyers, accountants and other professional people offering their services to crime syndicates at premium prices.

### **CELLS DISCOVERED**

Mr Justice Woodward, in probing the Donald Mackay disappearance, discovered "cells" of The Honored Society in the Sydney suburbs of Woolloomooloo, Leichhardt, Brookvale and Fairfield, as well as Wollongong and Griffith.

The report says Mr Mackay was killed by the society, or on its orders, because he was proving an embarrassment to its marijuana-growing operations in the Griffith district.

It named Robert (Bruno) Trimball as the Sydney supervisor of the society's distribution and marketing network and Antonio Sergi as the manager of its Griffith growing operations.

All of the society members living in Griffith at the time of Mr Mackay's murder had strong alibis. In fact, so many of them had left town before the disappearance, the commission had the impression that the alibis were "contrived or organised".

Mr Justice Woodward says the society is composed exclusively of people of Calabrian origin and

had been involved in extortion and other criminal activity.

The most notorious of these was the series of shootings known as the "Victoria Markets murders". These involved several shootings following a power struggle for control of the Victoria markets in Melbourne about 20 years ago.

The murders were attributed to the society and at the time there were warnings that it would eventually involve itself in large-scale marijuana-trafficking.

The judge warned that it would be a mistake to allow the curtain to fall on the society with the release of the commission's report.

"An organisation which has had its appetite whetted by illicit gains and has been prepared to resort to murder to discourage interference, is not likely to be deterred from its activities by an unfavorable public report.

"Consideration should therefore be given to the appointment of a small, select investigating force to watch and monitor the actions of the persons who have been the subject of my investigations in the Riverina area."

### **SURVEILLANCE**

He suggests the surveillance might not need any addition to the NSW Drug Squad, other than one senior officer.

Mr Justice Woodward estimates that the \$59 million spent annually by heroin addicts generates huge profits for importers and wholesalers, who do not pay tax.

He says during his investigations, it became clear that heroin imported into Victoria and Queensland was being funnelled through Sydney.

Though links in the heroin trade between the States were irregular and informal they were not uncommon, illustrating the ease with which the heroin trade could be transformed into one national market.

"Hence, there is some real possibility of the emergence of nationally organised drug syndicates," Mr Justice Woodward added.

### Text of Recommendations

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Nov 79 pp 12, 13

[Text] The report of the NSW Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking, which was tabled in State Parliament yesterday, recommends additional police powers and stiffer penalties for drug-trafficking.

The full text of the 89 recommendations is:

#### CANNABIS General

1. The cultivation, possession, supply or use of cannabis should not be legalised.
  2. Legislation which would permit the possession of small quantities of cannabis grown for one's own use should not be introduced.
  3. The possession or use of cannabis should not be decriminalised.
  4. The criminal records of those convicted of possession of marihuana for personal use, or of supplying marihuana by way of gift or without remuneration, should be destroyed at the end of two years, on the application of the person convicted, except in stipulated circumstances.  
Access to such records should be restricted to members of law enforcement agencies, and to authorities having lawful access to police records for criminological research.
- #### Psychomotor skills
5. The Government should support a substantial program of research into the effects of cannabis, and drugs generally, on driving performance, with a view to developing suitable practical tests which will enable detection and prosecution of the drug-intoxicated driver.
  6. The Government should institute a program whereby the extent of employee drug-taking can be determined and an assessment made of its impact on individual performance, safety and other matters within the industrial setting.
  7. The Government, and the various authorities concerned, should adopt an increasing role in regulating drug use in industry, and institute a program for the purpose of disseminating, in a practical way,

non-drug philosophies to members of the workforce, particularly apprentices and younger workers.

8. The Police Department's internal affairs branch inquiry into the conduct of Detective Sergeant John Ellis should be resumed.

9. That inquiry should be extended to include an investigation of the conduct of his subordinate officers, Detective Sergeant Brian Borthwick, Detective Senior Constable John Robins and their financial affairs.

10. The Attorney-General should consider whether

—there existed a criminal conspiracy in relation to the conduct of these three police officers;

—sufficient admissible evidence is available to justify their prosecution.

11. A small select investigative force should be appointed to

—examine the possibility of criminal charges being brought against any of the persons who have been subject to my investigations in the Riverina area and with whom I have dealt in detail in this report;

—watch and monitor the future activities of those persons.

#### Police

12. Police investigations following discovery of large cannabis crops should thoroughly explore the possibility that the owner, or those arrested on the property, may be no more than minor participants acting on behalf of a major producing or trafficking organisation, and that in such cases careful inquiry into, and analysis of, those and related cases, including those interstate, should be conducted with a view to producing evidence on which to base conspiracy charges against the principals.

13. The Police Department should institute organised pro-

cedures for detecting cannabis plantations and, in particular, for the purpose of more effectively combating large-scale cannabis production;

—liaise with the Department of Agriculture to explore the possibility of satellite monitoring;

—enlist the assistance of officers of other departments engaged in field work or property inspection, with such officers being given instruction on what they should look for and the action they should take when they find anything suspicious;

—encourage similar media publicity to alert local citizens in growing areas with, perhaps, the ancillary effect of discouraging potential producers;

—publicise flights over "high-risk" districts during the growing season.

#### NARCOTICS

14. The Government must recognise that the economic conditions of the heroin market and the lack of internal structure at the present time lend themselves to the emergence of an organisationally monopolistic crime syndicate.

15. The Government should institute a program whereby the incidence of new use of narcotic drugs is closely monitored so that remedial policies can be quickly developed and implemented.

16. The Government should encourage and support studies with a view to monitoring the incidence of persons commencing to use heroin.

17. Priority should be given in the enforcement effort towards those drugs with the highest level of direct social cost. At the present time heroin falls within this category.

#### OTHER DRUGS

18. The Police Department and the various health authorities, Commonwealth and State, should work jointly to carry out studies and surveys to monitor

trends in the abuse of drugs such as amphetamines, cocaine and hallucinogens.

19. Monitoring work in relation to the incidence of use of heroin, amphetamines, cocaine and hallucinogens should be based on systematic intelligence and assessments of variations in availability, use, quality and price.

20. A small unit should be established within the drug squad of the NSW Police Department which can liaise with both the Health Commission of NSW and the NSW Drug and Alcohol Authority to produce intelligence summaries at regular intervals for the information of Government, police and interested departments and institutions.

21. Specific steps should be taken against the importation, manufacture or use of phencyclidine and, for this purpose, an "early warning system" coupled with the monitoring of precursors should be instituted on a national basis.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT Policy

22. Endeavours by the United Nations and the USA to limit supply in major heroin-producing areas should be supported to the fullest practicable extent.

23. State and Federal Governments should offer some assistance to the Thai Government in the training of personnel and the supply of equipment.

24. There is a need for an increase in Australian law-enforcement personnel in major overseas drug supply centres.

25. There is a need in Bangkok for a small professional unit of Australian law-enforcement officers, with full clerical assistance and adequate transportation.

26. Efforts should be made to evolve an integrated drug enforcement program with other States and the Commonwealth.

27. Priority should be given in the enforcement effort to the investigation of high-level and organisational trafficking.

28. The Police Department should divide its manpower resources so that at least 65 per cent of the drug law-enforcement effort is spent in attempt-

ing to intercept traffickers above the street level.

29. A specialised drug-enforcement agency should not be established, nor is anything in the nature of a crime commission, designed to combat all forms of organised crime, recommended until the Police Department is given an opportunity to implement new procedures.

30. There should be an expansion in divisional units of police engaged in drug-related investigations in order to free, so far as is practicable, the drug squad for specialised work.

31. The various law-enforcement authorities must gear themselves to combat an almost inevitable emergence of more highly organised crime than has hitherto been present in this State.

32. There should be published annually a State administrative plan for continuing the drug-abuse problem.

33. In fixing a realistic figure for bail in respect of alleged drug traffickers or importers, courts should take into account that

- some importation organisations have access to vast sums of money, and bail money may represent to such persons a mere operational cost factor;
- reporting conditions or the surrender of passports often have little practical effect in limiting flight;
- an abnormally high proportion of foreign nationals charged with drug-importation offences abscond while on bail.

### Intelligence

34. A single, joint Commonwealth-State intelligence system should be established.

35. There should be an approach on the part of law enforcement to a conspiracy-type investigation and a willingness to postpone action against individuals until evidence is available to involve the whole, or a significant part, of an overall network.

36. The number of police officers trained in surveillance should be increased and the scope of such activities should be broadened.

37. Greater use should be made of undercover agents in the drug enforcement effort in

order to apprehend upper-level traffickers.

38. The Government should be prepared to provide more money to the Police Department to aid undercover agents in their efforts against major traffickers.

39. Consideration should be given to the problem of increasing the flow of intelligence from all sources and the need to provide concessions to those who are willing to make information available, including convicted criminals serving prison sentences.

### Co-operation

40. State and Federal Governments should commit themselves to close inter-agency co-operation.

41. The joint task force concept should be adopted on a permanent basis by State and Federal Governments.

### TREATMENT AND DIVERSION

#### Classification

42. Drug offenders coming before courts should be classified in the following manner:

1. Those charged with trafficking or with serious drug-related criminal offences.

2. Those charged with simple possession or use of marihuana.

3. Those charged with illegal use or simple possession of non-narcotic drugs other than marihuana.

4. Those charged with possession or use of narcotics but who do not come within class 1.

In relation to class 1 offenders, the law should take its course and the offender be dealt with according to the nature and degree of the offence.

Class 2 offenders should be dealt with under the present law but neither diverted nor imprisoned.

Where a class 3 offender is also a heroin user, he should be treated as if coming within class 4; otherwise such offenders should be dealt with in the same manner as those coming within class 2.

Class 4 offenders should be subject to procedures similar to those which the law has

developed for dealing with the socially disadvantaged.

Courts should be provided with all relevant information and, in appropriate cases, offenders should be diverted into treatment, but only after being dealt with in relation to the charge.

### Treatment

43. There should be a State plan for the organisation and co-ordination of drug-treatment services. The plan should be for three years but should be revised and published annually for the ensuring three-year period.

It should direct its attention to all aspects of the drug problem and contain strategies to be employed in treatment. It should also form the basis for future public expenditure.

The compilation of the plan should be the responsibility of the Drug and Alcohol Authority of NSW, which should co-ordinate the recommendations of the various Government authorities concerned.

44. Drug treatment programs should have practically realisable objectives seeking optimum improvement in drug-oriented behaviour.

45. The financing of therapeutic communities should be continued and funds made available for expansion of facilities to meet demands by those who are prepared to enter and remain in such programs.

### Diversion

46. Diversion schemes, despite their lack of success in this State, should not be abandoned as a method of dealing with drug offenders, and any program proven to be effective should be fully supported by the Government.

47. The Government should make no further decisions as to the structure or funding of diversion schemes until the results of the new pilot scheme, which is soon to be put into operation, are known.

48. I am not prepared to recommend the introduction and establishment of any particular diversion scheme — there being insufficient evidence before me to make any valid determination.

## CHANGES IN THE LAW

### Possession

49. Possession of illicit drugs for personal use should remain a criminal offence.

50. No amendment should be made to the Poisons Act to insert the word "knowingly" as an ingredient of possessory offences under that Act or to superimpose an additional requirement that the prosecution establish mens rea in respect of such offences.

51. Section 4(1) of the Poisons Act should be amended by inserting a new definition of "possession" which accords with the judgments of the Court of Criminal Appeal in *R v McGrath*, *R v Bush*, *R v Rawcliffe*, *R v Router* and *R v Kennedy*.

52. No amendment should be made of the Poisons Act to insert a statutory presumption as to possession by specified persons in situation where illicit drugs are found concealed in places to which no one person has exclusive access.

### Paraphernalia

53. No amendment should be made to Section 21(1)(f) of the Poisons Act to remove the requirement to establish that a person intended to use illegally specified drug paraphernalia in his possession.

54. No amendment should be made to the Poisons Act to prohibit or regulate the sale or possession of hypodermic syringes and needles.

55. The Poisons Act should be amended to prohibit inciting or soliciting, whether by advertising or otherwise, persons to obtain or use instruments designed to facilitate the use of illegal drugs.

### Analogues and precursors

56. The definition of "substance" in Section 4(1) of the Poisons Act should be amended to include —

(a) any preparation or admixture of all salts and derivatives of any substance; and

(b) anything represented or held out by or on behalf of the person selling or supplying it to be such substance.

57. No amendment should be made to the definition of "substance" in Section 4(1) of the Poisons Act to include "analogues" thereof, or to include "other closely related substances with a similar chemical composition producing broadly equivalent pharmacological effects," or to expand the definition by any similar means.

58. No amendment should be made to the definition of "substance" in Section 4(1) of the Poisons Act to include "immediate precursors" thereof.

59. Prominent precursors of commonly used illicit drugs should be included in the Poisons List, where not already included, and it should be an offence under the Poisons Act to possess any such precursors "with the intention of manufacturing, contrary to this Act, any prescribed restricted substance, drug of addiction or prohibited drug."

60. Regulations should not be introduced requiring drug companies and proprietors of businesses selling chemicals to report to the police full details of all suspicious purchases of specified chemicals which are known to be immediate precursors of various named illicit drugs.

### Power to search

61. Search powers equivalent to those which officers of the Federal Narcotics Bureau now exercise by means of general warrants or writs of assistance under Sections 198, 199 and 200 of the Customs Act should not be conferred on NSW police officers.

62. The Poisons Act should be amended, as the Police Department proposes, to empower police officers investigating suspected drug trafficking to enter premises without warrant in exigent circumstances.

However, with a view to preventing abuse, the following statutory provisos should apply—

(a) Warrantless searches should not be undertaken where it is reasonably practicable to obtain a warrant before entry and unless the police officer effecting entry into the premises suspects or believes on reasonable grounds that:



(i) a trackable quantity (as defined in the Poisons Act) of illicit drugs is on the premises;

(ii) there is a substantial risk of imminent destruction or removal of those drugs before entry by warrant can be effected.

(b) In any case where such a warrantless search is carried out, the police officer conducting the search should, regardless of whether or not a trackable quantity of illicit drugs is found, within 24 hours of entry into the premises, make a statutory declaration setting forth details of

(i) his reasons for not obtaining a warrant;

(ii) the basis for his suspicion or belief that a trackable quantity of illicit drugs was on the premises;

(iii) the basis for his suspicion or belief that there was a substantial risk of imminent destruction or removal of those drugs before entry with a warrant could be effected.

(c) Within seven days of such warrantless search being conducted, and regardless of whether or not an occupant of the premises makes a complaint, statutory declarations by the police officer conducting the search and any other police officers involved in the entry of the premises, together with a report by a superior officer of the Police Department should, in all cases, be forwarded to the Ombudsman for examination and if required by him, to the police internal affairs branch for investigation and any necessary disciplinary or other action.

63. To modernise the application procedures for search warrants, and to enable police investigating suspected drug trafficking or other offences to move swiftly in exigent situations, and to alleviate the need for warrantless searches, legislation should be enacted, as the Police Department proposes, to permit search warrants to be obtained by telephone or two-way radio.

However, to minimise the risk of abuse, this procedure should not be used unless a genuine emergency exists, it

should not be used in complex cases, and the oral application should be recorded.

64. Legislation should not be introduced to permit warrantless entry into premises for the purposes of "impounding" them until a search warrant can be obtained.

65. The amendment of Section 43(2) of the Poisons Act, proposed by the Police Department, to remove the requirement that the complaint made for the purpose of obtaining a search warrant show on its face the grounds upon which the reasonable suspicion or belief exists, is not recommended.

66. Section 43(2) of the Poisons Act should be amended, as the Police Department proposes, to remove the requirement that a warrant shall, on its face, name the police officer who is to execute it.

67. Section 43(2) of the Poisons Act should be amended, as the Police Department proposes, to make it clear that execution of a search warrant under that Act can take place either by day or by night.

68. Either the Poisons Act or the Crimes Act should be amended, as the Police Department proposes, to make it clear that any police officer of or above the rank of sergeant or in charge of a police station or a police vessel has power to stop, search and detain any vehicle or vessel in which he reasonably suspects that there is any drug of addiction, prohibited drug or prohibited plant.

69. Either the Poisons Act or the Crimes Act should be amended, as the Police Department proposes, to make it clear that any police officer has power to stop, search and detain any person whom he reasonably suspects of having or conveying any drug of addiction, prohibited drug or prohibited plant.

### Electronic interception

70. The Police Department should without delay commence to utilise fully its powers under the Listening Devices Act (NSW) to intercept non-telephonic communications espe-

cially in the area of illicit drug trafficking.

71. Commonwealth legislation should be amended, as the Police Department proposes, to permit NSW police, in investigating drug trafficking, to intercept telephone communications and other telecommunications, upon approval being given by a Supreme Court or Federal Court judge or the NSW Attorney-General.

### Compulsory interrogation

72. Amendment of the law, as the Police Department proposes, to permit compulsory interrogation of suspected drug traffickers, in so far as this involves the privilege against self-incrimination being abolished or curtailed, is not recommended, but further consideration by the Government of this question is necessary.

73. Enactment, as the Police Department proposes, of a Special Crime Investigations Act, which would confer power of compulsory interrogation in relation to a vast range of criminal activities including those of suspected major drug traffickers, is not recommended.

74. Enactment, as the Police Department proposes, of analogous provisions to Part VI A of the Companies Act, for the purpose of compulsory interrogation of suspected major drug traffickers, is not recommended.

### Bounty schemes and rewards

75. Drug bounty schemes, whether statutory or private, which promise rewards for information leading to conviction of drug traffickers, should not be introduced, promoted or encouraged.

76. No amendment should be made to the Poisons Act to establish a system of rewards for the supply of information leading to the conviction of drug traffickers.

### Informers

77. Amendment of the Poisons Act, as the Police Department proposes, to render

immune from examination by courts or the defence reports or documents produced within the Police Department or received by it in any official capacity relative to any prosecution under that Act, is not recommended.

78. Amendment of the Poisons Act, as the Police Department proposes, to prohibit the disclosure of the names of informers in any circumstances in the course of prosecutions under that Act, is not recommended.

**Compulsory disclosure of source**

79. The Poisons Act, as the Police Department proposes, should be amended to make it an offence for a person found in illegal possession of drugs to refuse or fail to disclose the name and address, if known, of the person from whom he obtained the drugs, the place from which he obtained them, and such other details as would assist in the identification and location of that person.

**Bail**

80. No amendment should be made to the Bail Act, 1979, to prohibit the granting of bail, or to create a presumption against bail, for persons charged with drug-trafficking offences.

**Sentencing**

81. No amendment should be made to the Poisons Act to increase the terms of imprisonment prescribed under that Act.

82. Penalties for simple possession or use of narcotic drugs should not be reduced.

83. Amendment of the Poisons Act to restructure penalties by creating greater specificity of punishment, whether in the form of mandatory minimum sentences or a rigid and graded tariff of penalties, is not recommended.

**Forfeiture**

84. Amendment of the Poisons Act, as the Police Department proposes, to provide for forfeiture of vehicles (including planes, boats and motor vehicles) used to assist in the

commission of offences under that Act, is not recommended.

**Fines**

85. The maximum fine in respect of indictable offences under the Poisons Act should be increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

86. The introduction of legislation authorising "means inquiries" to investigate the financial position and dealings of convicted major drug traffickers, with a view to making imposition and recovery of fines more effective, is not recommended.

**Goods in custody**

87. Extension of the "goods in custody" provision in Section 527C of the Crimes Act to cover situations where the proceeds of drug trafficking have been placed in an account such as a bank, building society, credit union or solicitor's trust account, is not recommended.

88. The Poisons Act should be amended to empower a court, upon conviction of a person charged with an offence under that Act, in addition to penalties of imprisonment and fine otherwise provided, to order execution against —

(a) property held by or on behalf of that person which has been obtained or paid for whether wholly or in part as the result of the commission of that offence;

(b) any account (eg bank, building society, credit union, solicitor's trust or other similar account) kept in that person's name or on his behalf where an amount has been credited to that account, as a result of the commission of that offence.

**Confidentiality**

89. Legislation should be introduced which, subject to specified exceptions —

(a) makes communications between a drug abuser and drug treatment facility staff confidential, and prohibits disclosure thereof; and

(b) protects from disclosure the records of that facility in respect of communications with, and testing, examination, diagnosis and treatment of drug abusers.

Williams Commission Interim Report

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 8 Nov 79 p 10

[Text] [SYDNEY MORNING HERALD editorial insert: "In October 1977, the Federal Government established the Australian Royal Commission into Drugs, under Mr Justice E. S. Williams of the Queensland Supreme Court, to inquire into the:

["Extent of and methods used in the illegal import, export, production of and trafficking in drugs.

["Source of drugs and their destination.

["Extent of illegal drug use and diversion of drugs legally obtained to illegal use, and drug misuse."]

The Australian Royal Commission into Drugs, under Mr Justice E. S. Williams, has urged a new approach to the fight against drug trafficking.

The commission has produced an interim report, tabled in Federal Parliament on Tuesday, in which the main recommendation is that the Federal Narcotics Bureau be disbanded.

The Government has accepted this proposal.

The Royal Commission's final report is expected to be released before the end of the year.

An edited version of the interim report follows.

The commission's view is that the 1968 initiative which established the Narcotics Bureau has failed. A completely different initiative is now necessary to improve the national effort against drug trafficking.

Mr Justice Williams goes on to say that public criticism of the bureau would compromise the national effort against drug abuse. Many hard-working and dedicated officers inevitably, but incorrectly, would be thought to be subject to criticism.

The secretary of the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr M. A. Besley, on November 17, 1977, the first day of the commission's sittings in Canberra presented that department's first submission to the commission.

It stated:

"There is little doubt that the Narcotics Bureau has developed into a highly efficient enforcement agency. Probably the most significant measure available in this regard is the substantial increase in arrests, prosecutions and quantities of drugs seized over the past seven years.

"In addition the bureau has established an outstanding reputation for efficiency, integrity and technique development within overseas and local enforcement agencies, other Government departments and the judicial system."

The commission has obtained a picture of drug trafficking in Australia from its consideration of evidence contained in some 24,000 pages of transcript and 990 exhibits. It is the considered opinion of this commission that:

The Narcotics Bureau is not a highly efficient enforcement agency.

Increases in arrests, prosecutions and seizures of drug have often occurred with little or no Narcotic Bureau assistance.

Some of the largest seizures in recent years attributed in the media to the Narcotics Bureau have in fact occurred without any real assistance from the Narcotics Bureau.

There is considerable and increasing distrust of the Narcotics Bureau among other law enforcement bodies. For some years past relationships between the Narcotics Bureau and the Commonwealth Police, especially at the top levels, have been bad, but now relationships between the Narcotics Bureau and State police are bad in many places.

Within the judicial system, generally speaking, the Narcotics Bureau's reputation for efficiency is lower than that of State police forces.

The bureau spends too much time defending itself and its image.

The Bureau's recent seizure figures reflect failure in its declared aim of detecting major traffickers, especially in heroin, and leaving lesser operations to the attention of State police. In 1977 and 1978 over 90 per cent of Narcotics Bureau heroin seizures were of less than 100 grams. Seizure of quantities less than 5 grams represented over 60 per cent of its seizures in 1978 and 70 per cent in 1977.

The existence of the bureau as an "elite" force within the Bureau of Customs has, notwithstanding some admirable initiatives it has taken, contributed to morale problems in other areas in the Bureau of Customs.

The Narcotics Bureau has depleted other arms of the Bureau of Customs of resources.

The Narcotics Bureau is not a cohesive force with high morale and pride in its accomplishments. There is considerable frustration and bitterness among many Narcotics Bureau officers, whom the commission regards as dedicated and keen agents.

The training of Narcotics Bureau officers leaves much to be desired.

Too much centralised control impairs the bureau's operational efficiency. In this, the use of the Public Service structure for a police agency and lack of effective leadership are principally to blame.

Career opportunities for Narcotics Bureau officers are too restricted.

The Narcotics Bureau has traded upon a flattering media image but has maintained great secrecy upon matters which might conceivably tarnish that image. This commission believes that very often the secrecy is maintained less for operational security than for self protection.

The Narcotics Bureau has demonstrated itself overly secretive in its dealings with other agencies, its departmental superiors and this commission.

The discharge of Australia's international responsibilities does not require the Narcotics Bureau as presently constituted.

Narcotics Bureau officers have in the main been recruited from Customs preventive officers but their experience is an insufficient practical training for today's investigators of drug trafficking.

The surveillance functions of the Customs Bureau's Coastal Air-Sea Operational Support Group (CASOS) should be conducted by the Department of Transport's Australian Coastal Surveillance Centre. There is no need the Bureau of Customs to be treated differently from other departments using the services of that centre.

There are three important general reasons why a Narcotics Bureau as presently constituted would, irrespective of

the zeal and efficiency of its officers, be bound to fail in the world of today.

These are:

First, the Narcotics Bureau is founded on an insufficient legislative base. It is unrealistic to restrict an enforcement body to action against imported drugs — traffickers in Australia do not usually observe any specialisation.

Second, it has become apparent that persons who, by any standards, would be classified as criminals are now deeply engaged in the illegal trade in drugs. The Narcotics Bureau staffed by public servants has been endeavouring to deal with criminals, usually intelligent and often dangerous criminals, and in doing so, has positively resisted any assistance from Commonwealth police.

Third, the total staff of the Narcotics Bureau is far too small. In 1969 when it was reorganised as a separate unit, it consisted of 33 operational officers and 10 clerical support staff. The bureau still does not number 200 persons yet it is endeavouring to fulfil a very large role.

The Narcotics Bureau claims that the simple remedy for any deficiencies it may have is to increase its staff, powers and resources. The commission rejects this cure which, in its opinion, would compound the problem, not solve it.

The more that State and territorial police can be encouraged to work in conjunction with Federal enforcement agencies, the greater use Australia will be making of its existing resources to combat the drug traffic.

At present, not only is there suboptimal co-operation between forces but there are elements which positively promote non-co-operation.

The commissioner must concede that when the commission commenced he was favourably disposed towards the Narcotics Bureau. During the evidence of Mr H. E. Bates, head of the Narcotics Bureau, on November 22, 1977, the commissioner said: "Would you be too modest to agree with me that

your Narcotics Bureau is highly regarded in several places throughout the world?"

Mr Bates replied: "No, I would not be too modest because that is what I believe the position to be, that it is regarded most highly."

The commissioner was probably no different from many people in the community who knew little of the Narcotics Bureau and who derived most of that little from the media.

An effort was made to determine how officers of the Narcotics Bureau were regarded. An attempt was made to compare them with State police in investigational skills such as the conduct of investigations, the questioning of suspects and the giving of evidence in court.

A minority of judges put the Narcotics Bureau officers they had seen in court on a par with State police officers.

The majority of judges put the Narcotics Bureau officers well below State police officers. The only fair conclusion is that the bureau does not enjoy anything like the reputation in judicial circles that it believes it enjoys.

The commission has concluded that this judicial criticism is well based in its application to the Narcotics Bureau as a whole.

The Narcotics Bureau contains too much inexperience.

An effective police agency, which is what the Narcotics Bureau tries to be, cannot be conducted within the framework of the Public Service. One deficiency of the Narcotics Bureau which flows from the Public Service structure is too much central office control.

Other deficiencies caused by the Public Service structure are:

- Constraints on securing and retaining staff,
- Discipline, and
- Inappropriate administrative procedures.

The Commission recommends that:

**AN OPTION** be given to all members of the Narcotics Bureau to remain with the Bureau of Customs or to join the Federal Police Force on

terms at least equal to those presently enjoyed. For this purpose it may be necessary to relax police entrance qualifications of, for example, stature and age.

**A CRIMINAL** drug intelligence cell be established nationally and in each State. The national criminal drug intelligence cell should be administered by the Federal Police. It should comprise officers not only from that force but also from the Bureau of Customs, from State and territorial police forces, from the Joint Intelligence Organisation and from the Commonwealth Department of Transport.

**THE ENACTMENT** of uniform legislation against drug trafficking by the Commonwealth, the States and the territories.

**THE ROLE** and objectives of the Bureau of Customs in relation to drug enforcement be restated as that of intercepting drugs at the Customs barrier.

**RESOURCES** of the Bureau of Customs be upgraded for the purpose of fulfilling its restated role. The expertise of those members of the Narcotics Bureau who do not elect to join the Federal Police Force will be immediately available to assist in this upgrading.

**DRUG MONITORING** cells be set up nationally and in each State and territory to collect and monitor all data relevant to drug abuse.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ROYAL COMMISSIONS' INVESTIGATIONS

No Proof of a Heroin 'Mr Big'

Melbourne THE AGE in English 7 Nov 79 p 6

[Text]

The Royal Commission found no evidence of a "Mr. Big" importing heroin.

While most of the heroin sold in NSW came from Asia's gold triangle there was no evidence to suggest there was one person in charge of its importation into Australia, the report said.

"It would be wrong to describe the internal distribution of heroin in this State as being in the hands of one or even a small number of independent tightly controlled . . . permanently established groups," it said.

Mr. Justice Woodward said that if many of the drug groups had one thing in common it was lack of expertise.

"Their operations are featured by mistakes and ineptitude; grandiose and impracticable plans are made many of which never reach fruition; many of the participants are or become addicted which, apart from anything else, limits their capacity for efficiency."

Mr. Justice Woodward named six organisations as having been involved in importing and distributing heroin in Australia.

He said many of the members of the groups were in jail but had been charged for the wrong thing.

One organisation imported large amounts of heroin and distributed it throughout NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

The group imported heroin by concealing it in hollowed-out Asian furniture which was imported for sale at a shop in Sydney owned by a member of the organisation.

The furniture arrived in Brisbane where one member was said to have had a special deal going with a customs officer.

A member of the group, Mr. Colin Courtney was arrested in August 1977 by drug squad police who found a half-ounce bag of heroin in his flat, the report said.

Mr. Justice Woodward said: "In one sense he was arrested for the wrong thing in that he was not charged as a major importer of bulk heroin but virtually as a street dealer."

"Courtney was never charged with respect to his importation activities — indeed they seem to have not been known to enforcement agencies."

But the judge warned that there was a real possibility nationally organised drug syndicates could emerge. The commission had heard evidence that heroin imported into Vic-

torias and Queensland was being sent to Sydney for distribution and that heroin imported to Sydney went to Victoria and at times to South Australia.

Mr. Justice Woodward said New South Wales addicts spent more than \$59 million a year on heroin.

He emphasised that because much of the heroin being imported into Australia by both organised groups and individuals passed through Bangkok, it was necessary to have an efficient police representation there.

But the Australian Narcotics Bureau officer there had no transport, office staff or assistance of any kind.

"This level of Australian representation is inadequate and shortsighted and will not be much improved by the proposal as noted in the Press to post another such officer to Bangkok during 1979," Mr. Justice Woodward said.

He suggested that the bureau be expanded to include a small professional unit of officers with appropriate facilities.

Another group named as involved in heroin activity was the "Sinclair" group consisting of Mr. William Sinclair, Mr. Warren Fellows and Mr. Paul Hayward.

The three were arrested in Bangkok on October 11.

1978 in possession of a suitcase containing 8.4 kilograms of heroin.

The other groups were named as the Lanoux, Lowe, Colligan and Milligan organisations.

The commission was told that heroin was imported into Australia by means including light aircraft landing at isolated strips, luggage equipped with false bottoms, and shipping containers.

Witnesses told the commission they swallowed plastic bags containing the drug while others tried to conceal it inside their bodies.

Mr. Justice Woodward said that only about 10 per cent of heroin imported into Australia was detected by customs agents. The law enforcement of heroin during the past four years was a matter for concern.

"Law enforcement has been of limited effect. The heroin problem is still growing," he said.

#### More Details on Secret Society

Melbourne THE AGE in English 7 Nov 79 p 6

[Text]

A secret Calabrian organisation in the Riverina town of Griffith was named as being in control of the cultivation and trafficking of marijuana in New South Wales.

Mr. Justice Woodward named the group as L'Onorata Societa (the Honored Society) or N'Dranghita (Calabrian dialect meaning the Honored Society).

Mr. Justice Woodward said evidence was given that a man named "Bruno" was either one of the principals, or at least their field representative.

He said: "in evidence, Robert Trimbole admitted that he had

frequently used the name Bruno Trimbole, although he denied any association with marijuana in general . . ."

"I have expressed my conclusion that Robert Trimbole was the principal figure at the retailing end of the marijuana chain."

Mr. Trimbole was one of a number of Griffith-based Calabrians named by Mr. Justice Woodward as having a direct link with the Honored Society growing and selling marijuana.

"Robert Trimbole was nominated as the first grower of marijuana at Griffith. However, it appears that he only remained in the growing side for about 18 months, then moved into the distribution of the crops. The growing operation was then taken over by the Sergi family at Griffith, with Antonio Sergi being described as the operator."

In his report, Mr. Justice Woodward went into lengthy explanation

of the involvement of members of the Sergi family, Barbaro family, Trimboli family and other Griffith people involved in companies and financial dealings with each other.

In cases where there were people of identical names, Mr. Justice Woodward named their occupation as, for example, Antonio Sergi (the winery).

He said organisational funds came from —

● Gambling wins: From horses, two-up, roulette or cards.

● Gifts: Funds said to have been received from deceased estates in Plati, Calabria, or amounts claimed as simple gifts of money by members of a family.

● Loans: Including those made by relatives and friends which in the circumstances could not be regarded as legitimate.

● Cash flow: Cash deposited into banking accounts of the persons investigated.

Mr. Justice Woodward said the funds peaked at about the same time every year following the harvesting of crops in February-March.

"This flow of funds was not interrupted greatly by the police raids at Griffith early in 1974. In fact, peaks in the flow of funds increased substantially in 1974 and 1975. Funds again increased in 1977 in a similar pattern to that shown in 1974.

"The Calabrian cannabis growers who operated in and around Griffith, with their marketing outlets in Sydney, were and probably still remain, the largest growing and marketing operation in the State."

Mr. Justice Woodward emphasized the system of laundering money by the society.

"Company structures, 'loans' from friends and relatives, purported partnerships, 'legacies' from deceased relatives, gambling 'wins', cash payments to tradesmen and the intermingling of illicit funds with legitimate earnings were techniques used by members of the organisation to launder money acquired from drug-related activity."

Mr. Justice Woodward itemised Mr. Trimbole's betting with both the TAB and Sydney bookmaker Daniel O'Shea.

The report showed that during a 12-month period from August, 1976, to August, 1977, Mr. Trimbole invested \$222,626 in a TAB telephone account.

Mr. Justice Woodward said: "I do not accept that Robert Trimbole's alleged bets with the registered bookmaker Daniel O'Shea were genuine and I believe that they were part of a pre-arranged laundering operation".

The report said that between January, 1974, and December, 1978, included among the total number of cannabis crops discovered throughout Australia by police were some 22 plantations which resulted in the arrest and charging of 45 persons of Calabrian descent.

A breakdown of these arrest figures revealed:

- Twenty-two were born in the village of Plati, Calabria.
- Eighteen were born elsewhere in Calabria.
- Two were Australian-born of Calabrian parents.
- Three were born outside Calabria, but were arrested on planta-

tions with Calabrians. These three were born in Sicily, Genoa and Nice.

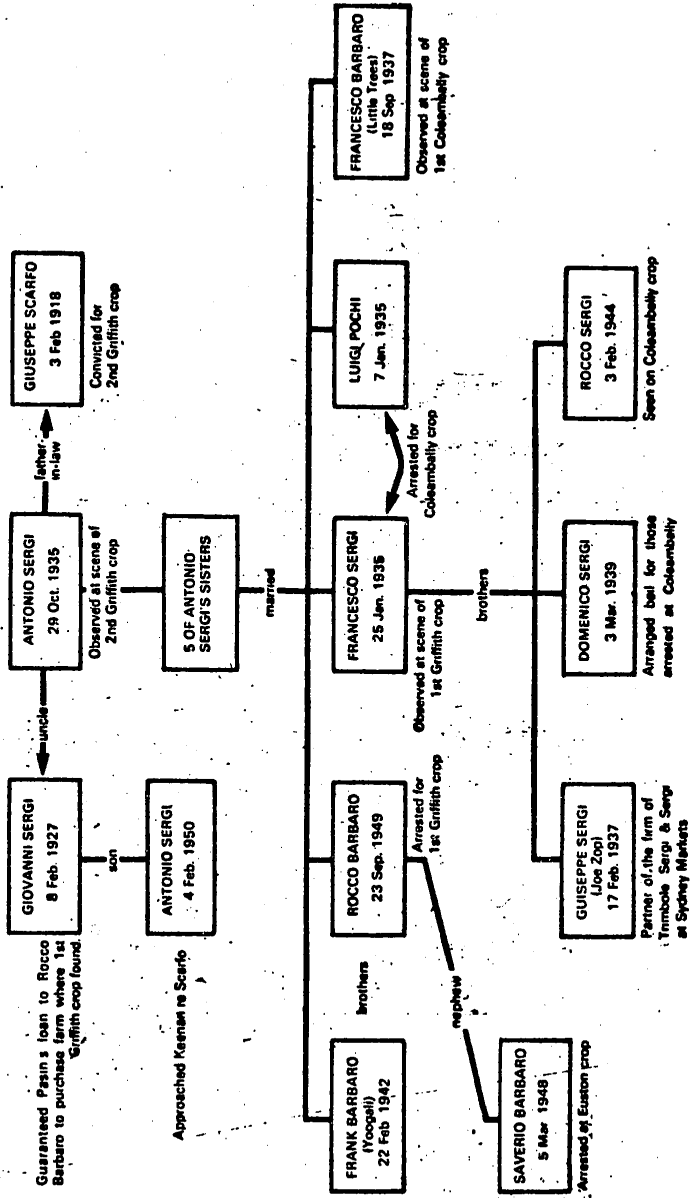
Mr. Justice Woodward said claims by some of the Griffith Italians of having received funds from the estates of deceased relatives in Plati tended to tax credulity.

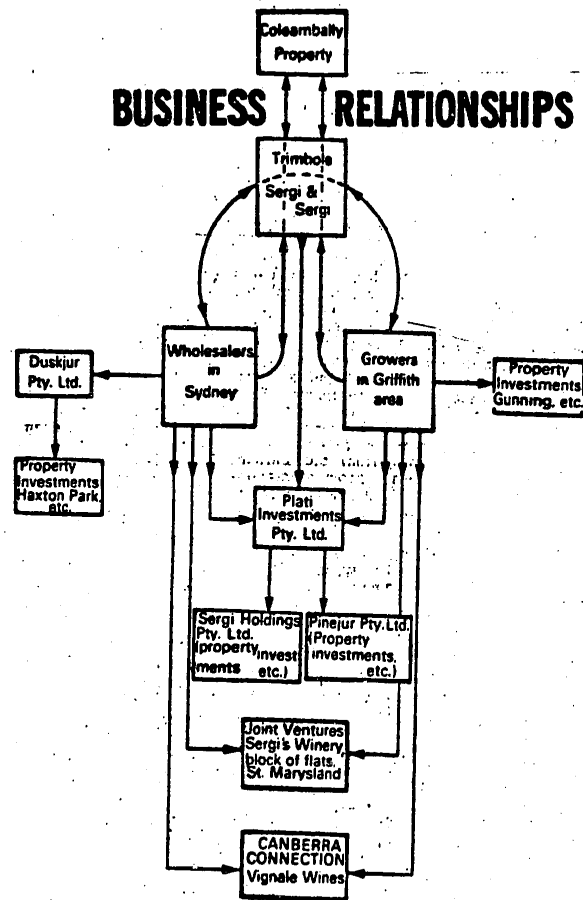
"In interviews with commission investigators, it was asserted that the deceased persons, in this instance, had accumulated their wealth from such unlikely occupations as the father '... working for a rich man ...' and the mother '... putting the salt in cheese ...'. At least two beneficiaries, a brother and a sister, Francesco Barbaro (Farm 1760, Griffith) and Giuseppina Sergi (Farm 1775) both living in Griffith, claimed to have received \$48,000 each from the Barbaro estate in Plati. From admissions on records of interview, there are at least six children in the Barbaro family.

"Statements of this kind tend to tax credulity when it is realised that Government information sources put the average yearly income for this area of Calabria at \$526," the judge said.



# MAJOR MARIJUANA CROPS - FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS





Early Warning on Calabrians

Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Nov 79 p 1

[Report from David Elias]

[Text] The secret Calabrian society named in the Woodward Commission report on drugs has been operating in Melbourne since the end of World War II.

The Honored Society was entrenched in Victoria 15 years ago when a secret report to the Government warned that if the society went unchecked it could monopolise the State's organised crime.

The report was written in 1964 after a 4 1/2-month investigation by US narcotics investigator Mr. John Cusack, a man said to have played a part in breaking the notorious French Connection.

Mr. Cusack warned the Government that the society was capable of taking over every facet of organised crime in a 25-year period.

Since he issued the warning, Federal and State police have fought an almost hopeless war against an estimated 300 members in Victoria, another 500 in New South Wales and smaller groups in every other Australian State, according to police sources.

At least 20 Melbourne families are on a special Commonwealth Government "watch list" because of their association with the society.

Federal police have compiled family trees and discovered that most of the families are linked by marriage in an effort to keep the society tightly knit.

The Griffith arm of the society, which controls a large part of the NSW marijuana trade and has been accused of being responsible for the disappearance of anti-drug campaigner Mr. Donald Mackay in 1977, is wedded to the Melbourne families, the police sources said.

But efforts to stamp out their activities have failed because of restrictions on manpower and money, the sources said.

The Australian Federal Police force, which has now been given the work of the narcotics bureau, has estimated that it would cost \$1000 a day to keep one man under surveillance.

As there are several hundred members in Australia an efficient surveillance operation would cost millions of dollars a year, the police sources said.

Mr. Cusack, who was helping the Victoria Police after the outbreak of shotgun murders and woundings in the Victoria Market, named several members of the society in his report. He also said they were connected with the control by extortion of the main flow of the State's produce.

The men he named and now other members of the same families are still on open files in the State and Federal police forces.

The report was written when Sir Henry Bolte was Premier. A spokesman for Mr. Hamer said he knew nothing of it.

He said it was unlikely the Government, if it had the report, would ever publish it.

Mr. Hamer was not available for comment.

In his report to the New South Wales Government on Tuesday, Mr. Justice Woodward linked the Honored Society with the control of drugs around Griffith, the murder of anti-drug campaigner Mr. Donald Mackay and the 1963 Victoria Market murder.

Mr. Cusack's 15-year-old report said: "The Calabrian L'onorata Societa is well entrenched in Australia. It is already engaged in extortion, prostitution, counterfeiting, sly grog, breaking and entering, illegal gambling and the smuggling of aliens and small arms.

"Within the next 25 years if unchecked, the society is capable of diversification into all facets of organised crime and legitimate business.

"This could very well include narcotics, organised gambling including the corruption of racing, football, etc., organised usury and

the large-scale receipt and distribution of stolen goods."

He said their members included shrewd, hardened criminals with extensive records of commercial crime and violence in Calabria or Australia or both.

"Within the next 25 years their large cash resources and strong-arm tactics will eventually enable them to develop monopolies and large profit in such fields as labor racketeering, wholesale distribution of alcoholic and soft drinks . . . the importation of olive oil, tomato paste, cheese, the baking and distribution of Italian baked goods, the vending machine business, the monopolistic ownerships of night clubs and taverns, musical recording and record distributing companies, model and theatrical booking agencies, building road construction companies."

In Griffith, the society was able to move into narcotics and at least one family is known to own and operate Melbourne massage parlors and hotels, according to police.



More Drug Traffickers Identified

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Nov 79 p 13

[Text]

A drug ring which centred on three brothers from the South Coast had made considerable sums of money for at least six years and smuggled the money overseas, Mr Justice Woodward said.

The Elchaar Group involved Yousif Antonios Elchaar, now living in Lebanon, George Elchaar, of Gray Street, Woonona, and Hani Elchaar, of Princes Highway, Woonona.

Their cousins, Chosn Bcharani, of Park Road, Bulli, and Salim Bcharani, of Moore Street, Campsie, and a sixth man, George Issa Nehme, of Albion Park Rail, were also involved.

Mr Justice Woodward said that Hani and George Elchaar had been involved in the commercial cultivation and sale of

Cannabis in NSW since at least 1972, when their brother Yousif was arrested in connection with the discovery of about 200 kilograms of cannabis in a shed.

Yousif left Australia in September, 1972, even though he had surrendered his passport. He is believed to be in Lebanon.

Mr Justice Woodward said cannabis plantations at Picton, Mudgee and Goulburn were consistent with a well organised program to cultivate and distribute marihuana.

He said that although there could be no doubt that "very considerable sums of money" were made over the years there was little evidence of the sums involved.

"But the street value would be in the range of millions of dollars, with a diminished return to producers and distributors," he said.

"The bulk of the money has been transferred overseas in cash.

"There seems to have been no effective way to prevent overseas travellers carrying a suitcase of cash, and, in the case of this group's operations, it is likely that this route was taken to dispose of the money," he said.

Mr Justice Woodward found that among the people most involved in drug trafficking in the Wollongong-South Coast area were Edward Paul Filipetti and his mother Nella Clara Filipetti.

The Filipettis, of Noble Parade, Lake Heights, near Wollongong, "for some years have been distributors in the Wollongong area of drugs, principally Indian hemp," the judge said.

He found that they had evaded income tax and received Social Security benefits without legal entitlement.

Role of Syndicate in Heroin Trade

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Nov 79 p 14

[Text] Heroin trafficking is crude and disorganised in NSW but the emergence of highly organised crime in the \$59 million-a-year market is inevitable, says Mr Justice Woodward.

The economy of the heroin market and the lack of internal structure "lend themselves to the emergence of an organisationally monopolistic crime syndicate."

He did not accept that a "Mr Big" dominates the market, nor that large heroin rings protected by police or politicians exist.

The structure of the heroin trade is crude but effective, with disorganisation and laissez-faire competition between wholesalers.

This may account for its continued success because disruption of one organisation has no effect on another, he says.

The evidence shows that Sydney is the national centre for heroin distribution, and the major heroin groups are based in Sydney.

Overall, the six heroin importing and distributing groups identified during the inquiry were more in the nature of loose confederations of individuals than organisations.

"Generally, importing groups, in order to be successful, need access to and to be trusted by the principal dealers in the event that they wish to dispose of heroin in bulk.

"Groups need not be large and no special ingenuity or intelligence is required to succeed

in getting the drugs into the country.

"It is clear on the evidence that there is no suggestion that heroin importation and distribution is in the hands of one, or even a small number of permanently established groups.

"No 'Mr Big' was discovered; nor was there evidence of a small number of controlling figures or of the prerequisites of monopolistic control."

It was firmly established that suppliers in Thailand or elsewhere would sell to anyone prepared to pay.

Vast amounts of capital are not required and a heroin importing venture costing \$50,000 would likely return more than \$1 million.

While dismissing the existence of large heroin rings and the involvement of "some American criminal syndicates," he says that the longer a group operates the greater its potential to refine and sophisticate its operations.

"Because of the huge profits generated, successful and undetected groups are faced with having to invest funds in either legal or illegal activity."

Legal businesses provide means of laundering money, and the co-existence of legal and illegal activity is fundamental in a move towards organisational superiority or monopoly control.

Although use of illicit money for legal businesses has occurred in marihuana trafficking organisations, there is no evidence of it in the heroin trade.

Heroin trafficking at any given time "seems to be in the hands of several classes of people — the small groups which form and smuggle in a couple of ounces at a time; the amateur carrying a kilo through in an overnight bag . . . and the more organised groups who have a method and pursue it until they are caught."

He says that some of the six heroin importing and distributing organisations examined by the Commission brought in large quantities of heroin, perhaps as much as 25 kilograms at a time.

"One of them regularly imported at this level and effected wholesale distribution throughout NSW, Victoria and South Australia."

Significant imports are made by individuals, often under a scheme where a group of addicts pool resources and send one of their number overseas to buy the heroin.

"The complete elimination of an operative chain would have no effect on the state of the consumer market," he says.

There are undoubtedly successful heroin-importing groups not identified by the commission and it is not unrealistic to assume that some of them are making million-dollar profits annually.

"In fact, it is almost an inevitable conclusion when it is considered the Sinclair group had at least half a million dollars in less than 12 months of operation."

"And herein lies the danger, for within these groups there must exist potential for organisational, monopolistic crime syndicates."

Business expertise is growing rapidly and the ease with which fringe operations may hide illegitimate commerce behind a legitimate front is accelerating alarmingly.

It is not unrealistic to postulate growing numbers of lawyers, accountants and others with the skills needed by syndicates in both legal and illegal business to give their services at premium prices.

The evidence is that this has not happened to any great extent.

"But it can and will if a sufficiently motivated group steps on to the natural void in the present market structure. This must not be allowed to happen."

There is also some danger that a national drug crime syndicate may emerge, he says.

Report Not Yet Available to Public

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Nov 79 p 43

[Text] Copies of the NSW Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking report will not be immediately available to the public.

Only 300 copies were printed for distribution to Members of Parliament, Government departments, other States and the media yesterday.

A spokesman for the Premier said it would take some time to have the report printed by the Government printer for sale through the Government sales office.

### Heroin Unlikely To Be Checked

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Nov 79 p 14

[Text]

New Federal Government checks are unlikely to affect the flow of heroin into Australia significantly in the medium-term, Mr Justice Woodward said.

Illegal importation of heroin required "no special intelligence or ingenuity" and the Bureau of Customs intercepted probably less than 10 per cent of the heroin imported.

New measures to make saturation checks of selected aircraft and to continue random checks were not likely to reduce the supply of heroin to the illegal market.

None of six heroin-importing organisations investigated by the commission "are known to have had their imports intercepted at the point of entry".

"Indeed, in their critical role of heroin importers they were never dealt with at all," the report said.

Police attention was attracted to them usually in the context of possessing heroin or using it.

The most effective counter to drug trafficking was to intercept the drugs at the earliest possible stage, ideally at the point of entry.

But Mr Justice Woodward pointed out the relative ease of importing heroin. Some Australian addicts went overseas, bought from the first rickshaw driver they met, carried it back to Australia in a pocket of a suitcase and then sold direct to local users.

The more sophisticated ventures minimised entry risks in many ways, perhaps by "false" compartments, inside knowledge of Customs procedures or even by using the "stupid or gullible" as couriers.

"Even if detected such people have little or no knowledge of group activity and in any case are expendable."

Importing the drug concealed, in freight or cargo was another technique for avoiding interception which at

worst risked a low-level participation. "Complicated schemes using private planes, clandestine landings on outback airstrips and the like might be imaginative but hardly seem necessary," he said.

"I received convincing evidence, which I do not propose to describe, of the use of containers for smuggling drugs. Containers move about 80 per cent of Australia's non-bulk import trade.

"Containers are not subject to search procedures in Australia. The problem they present is common to governments around the world."

There were obvious steps to stop heroin supplies crossing Australia's borders, but that was entirely in the hands of the Federal Government.

While some capital was required, vast amounts were not needed.

One venture by a witness code-named "BL" in May, 1978, which probably cost at the most \$50,000, would have returned more than \$1 million to the organisers if successful.

Of the six organisations investigated, in no case was the whole organisation destroyed.

The organisation which came closest into complete destruction was probably the "Sinclair" group. The Thai police, acting on information supplied by the NSW Police, arrested William Garfield Sinclair, Warren Edward Fellows and Paul Cecil Hayward on October 11, 1978, and took possession of a suitcase containing 8.4 kilograms of heroin.

The Sinclair group was different from other importation networks in that—

None of the major participants were or became users, nor were part of the "drug sub-culture."

It was an incursion into importation and distribution by "professional" criminals, most of whom have tended to avoid direct involvement in this area in the past.

### Weak Representation in Thailand

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Nov 79 p 6

[Text]

THE Federal Narcotics Bureau's representation in Thailand is described by the Woodward report as inadequate and short-sighted.

The bureau has one agent in Bangkok and he has no transport, office staff or back-up assistance.

Mr Justice Woodward warns that Australia must co-operate with the United Nations and with American and Thai forces in Thailand and that the Federal Narcotics Bureau must pass on information to Australian State forces.

In contrast to Australia's effort, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has spent \$6 million in five years in Thailand to support its force and gather intelligence to break heroin smuggling rings.

In addition, the U.S. State Department has spent \$3 million to provide patrol vessels and communications networks to help the Thais combat the heroin trade.

Mr Justice Woodward says he was not able to evaluate

By KEN HOOPER

Australia's effort in Thailand because the Federal Narcotics Bureau agent there was instructed not to give information to the commission.

The judge says: "One thing that did become obvious in Thailand was that, although both Thai authorities and the international community of drug enforcement officers regarded the Australian officer as being able and energetic, they were well aware that he had no transport, office staff or back-up assistance of any kind."

"This level of representation is inadequate and short-sighted."

Mr Justice Woodward says the inadequacies of Australia's existing system were illustrated by the arrest in Bangkok in October 1978 of William Garfield Sinclair, Warren Edward Fellows and Paul Cecil Hayward on charges of possessing heroin.

At the time the men were arrested, NSW police were investigat-

ing their activities in Australia, but were hampered by lack of information from Thailand.

Eventually, the NSW police sent two officers to Bangkok to get information.

The judge says: "It is a criticism of failure of the Federal Narcotics Bureau to provide an adequate information flow to those in NSW who need it."

"What is needed in Bangkok is a small, professional unit of enforcement officers, with back-up staff and transportation."

"What is needed in Australia is an adequate assumption of its responsibilities by the Federal Narcotics Bureau and a willingness to attend to the requirements of co-operative investigations with State police forces."

Summing up his findings on the world's heroin supply Mr Justice Woodward says that, in spite of all the work being done by enforcement agencies and the UN, there is no real prospect of a reduction of heroin smuggling from the Golden Triangle to Australia in the immediate future.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

NEWSPAPERS COMMENT ON ROYAL COMMISSION REPORTS

Lack of Cooperation Scored

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Nov 79 p 6

[Editorial: "Hard Line on Drugs"]

[Text] THE LONG, firmly phrased and well-argued report of the NSW Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking will take a good deal of digesting, but those interested should find the effort well spent. Mr Justice Woodward confirms what is generally known — that drug abuse is growing and that the problem is increasingly one associated with imported drugs and trafficking in them. This being the case, co-operation between State and Federal Governments is absolutely essential. It is therefore quite shocking to find that Mr Justice Woodward's investigations were hampered by an almost total lack of co-operation from the Federal Government and its agencies.

There were hints of this during the commission's hearings, but it was difficult to believe that, in due course, Canberra would not come to the party. It is no longer difficult to believe. Mr Justice Woodward's acid comments about the Commonwealth — "few better ways of avoiding giving assistance to an investigating Royal Commission than that offered could be devised" — leave no doubt on that score. The only redeeming feature of the Federal Government's disgraceful obstructionism is that it did not prevent "an advance to co-operative effort" by the Federal Royal Com-

missioner, Mr Justice Williams, and Mr Justice Woodward in forming a joint NSW-Commonwealth Task Force.

The NSW Royal Commissioner makes no concession to those who advocate a softer official attitude to the use of marihuana. He does not agree with the South Australian Royal Commission's recommendation, made last May, that the private use of marihuana should be legalised. He rejects the view of the NSW Attorney-General, Mr Walker, that people should be allowed to grow marihuana plants in their back yards for their own use. As a policy concept, he says, this is "divorced from reality and cannot be seriously considered." And divorced it is. Those who hymn the joys, or at least the alleged relative harmlessness, of marihuana ought to read his long and careful assessment of the arguments on both sides.

In essence, he says that no recommendation can, "with conscience," be made for legalising the use of marihuana; the dangers "far outweigh the argued advantages." As for decriminalisation, a different concept, this "does not direct itself to the more serious and sinister problems of the illegal marihuana market-place." Therefore, on balance, it would probably be "against the overall general interests of society" — clumsily put, but the meaning is clear. Mr Justice



Woodward's terms of reference were, of course, limited to law enforcement and associated areas, and he was criticised within six months of his appointment for concentrating at that stage only on marihuana.

"One of the most vociferous critics," he says, "was the Council for Civil Liberties, which, when given the opportunity by letter to make submissions to me, ignored the invitation." Obviously he had a lonely time in the absence of "helpful suggestions" — either from the Commonwealth or anyone else apart from his own staff — about how to make his inquiries. But no one can complain that his report concentrates solely on marihuana. Far from it. It contains many recommendations, and Mr Wran's statement yesterday suggests that no time will be lost in implementing some of them. The most spectacular involves increasing the maximum penalty for drug trafficking from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

"There is an excellent case for this, and the Government seems certain to accept it and legislate accordingly. Other recommendations, covering a wide field, will involve the Government in a fair amount of expenditure, but the cost should not be prohibitive. The NSW Police Force, with a few conspicuous individual exceptions, comes out of the inquiry reasonably well — it "does what it does diligently and well." Mr Justice Woodward does not accept the "sensational 'Mr Big'-like theories nor those of large heroin rings protected by police or politicians." But he warns of the danger of "an almost inevitable emergence of much more highly organised crime than has hitherto been present in this State." Hence his hammering insistence on the need for much closer Commonwealth-State co-operation. The Federal Government should, for a change, pay attention; it will be culpably remiss if it ignores his strong recommendations.

#### National Coordinated Effort Urged

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Nov 79 p 8

[Editorial: "Fighting National Crime Nationally"]

[Text] MR Justice Woodward's recommendation that a single crime intelligence unit be established, incorporating all State and Federal agencies connected with law enforcement, is one which should receive urgent attention and action — from all Governments. Although the judge, as the NSW Royal Commissioner inquiring into drug trafficking, was concerned with the necessity for such a unit in the fight against drugs, the need for this sort of nationally co-ordinated effort in law enforcement generally has been obvious for some time. In these days of high-speed transport and fast communication, the concept of six or seven police forces operating independently of each other — even with the best will in the world to co-operate — is as outmoded as the horse and buggy.

It could be argued that Mr Justice Woodward's proposal does not go far enough, that what Australia really needs is a sort of super-FBI, with wide-ranging powers to operate across State boundaries. But perhaps that envisages progress at too fast a rate to be acceptable. The comments which the judge made in his report about the shocking lack of co-operation extended to the NSW Royal Commission by Federal authorities shows the extent to which some officials will go to protect their little empires and areas of authority.

Mr Justice Woodward's report has implications extending far beyond the boundaries of NSW. His account, for instance, of the mini-effort which Australia is putting into tackling the drug problem at one of its sources. That

land, must concern every Australian. We have one officer there - apparently a hard-working and able operator. But he has no back-up staff, not even a car to get about in. It is hard to escape the suspicion that he is there for cosmetic reasons - a sort of token our-man-in-Bangkok, to impress Cabinet ministers and inquiring taxpayers.

"Inadequate and shortsighted" is the term used to describe the Federal Narcotics Bureau's effort in Thailand. It appears it could be used to describe its efforts inside Australia, too, if it is able to intercept no more than 10 per cent of illegal drug imports. We are not smugly suggesting that drug interception is an easy task - particularly in this country, with its vast, empty coastline and big tourist exchange with the so-called Golden Triangle. But we are entitled to expect better results from what should be a highly professional team.

Perhaps it will function better as part of the Federal Police Force - a

major change which the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, announced late yesterday. Certainly, narcotics agents will be in closer touch with general crime as members of a specialised part of a general force rather than as specialists operating in isolation. And this can only be an advantage. Drug trafficking by crooks - as opposed to importation of drugs by independent "amateurs" - must, by the nature of organised crime, be part of crime in general. This was clearly demonstrated in those dramatic sections of Mr Justice Woodward's report dealing with murder, money-laundering and organised gangs.

Organised crime cannot be tackled piecemeal or State by State. Thus Mr Justice Woodward's suggestion for a national crime intelligence unit has considerable merit - particularly if it is regarded as a step toward the organisation of crime fighting on a truly national basis.

#### Marihuana Ban Supported

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 8 Nov 79 p 8

[Editorial: "Pot Ban Should Stay"]

[Text] WITHIN the last six months we have had two Royal Commissions adopt diametrically opposed attitudes on marijuana. In May, the SA Royal Commission into the non-medical use of drugs put a proposal it be legalised on a personal-consumption, non-commercial basis. On Tuesday, the NSW Royal Commission into drug trafficking refused to recommend any relaxation in existing laws concerning marijuana and dismissed suggestions that people be allowed to grow small quantities for their own use as "divorced from reality."

This divergence of opinion at a high level corresponds to the differences of opinion which exist at all levels in the

community. Given this confusion, Mr Justice Woodward, of NSW, is correct: any government which legalised - or "decriminalised" as the euphemism has it - general use of marijuana would be acting irresponsibly.

The arguments in favor of legalising marijuana are: it is not as addictive as nicotine; it is less harmful than tobacco or alcohol; its illegality creates corruption and a cover for peddlers of narcotics, particularly heroin.

This last argument has some merit - but it is, surely, taking the easy way out. And experience shows it doesn't work, anyway. For example, legal off-course betting (the T.A.B.) was supposed to stamp out illegal SP betting -

which continues to flourish . . . and uses bribery and corruption to do so.

To suggest, in effect, that marijuana is good because it is not as bad as nicotine or alcohol is rather like suggesting a cancer sufferer will be better off if he catches pneumonia, too. Legalised marijuana will not replace alcohol. It will be another additive to social upset, death on the roads and all the rest of the fearful ills which alcohol has wrought. There is no doubt that, if we could start over again with alcohol, the medical and legal professions (knowing what they know now) would want its use restricted. Similarly, tobacco's toll will not cease with the legalising of marijuana.

Legal marijuana would simply add yet another harmful drug to those already freely available. And it is harmful. Marijuana use has an effect on brain cells, on genes, on sexual function and on the white blood cells — those which help give immunity from disease. It also produces personality change, impairs learning ability and can cause chronic lethargy.

Medical experts, it is true, differ widely on the extent of harm which marijuana does. But recent evidence indicates it may be more harmful than its supporters have claimed in the past. In these circumstances, no responsible government can contemplate legalising its use.

#### Crime Intelligence Unit Advocated

Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Nov 79 p 8

[Editorial: "A National War on Drugs"]

[Text]

**B**Y the time the Federal Government's Royal Commission into drugs completes its final report, probably later this year, Australia will have had three such inquiries in as many years. This overdose of investigation, and the voluminous horror stories of drug abuse that have been uncovered, might be difficult for the public to comprehend. But while two of the commissions have sharply disagreed whether the use of home-grown marijuana should be legalised, they do concur that drug abuse is growing and that much more needs to be done to combat it. The findings of each commission cannot be considered in isolation. Together, they provide a case for a concerted national drive against the trafficking and use of drugs. What must not be allowed to continue is the interstate rivalry that one of the commissions has cited as a major reason for the failure of law enforcement procedures in the past.

Two of the Royal Commissions have now reported to their respective Governments. In May, the South Australian commission, which spent two years investigating the non-medical use of drugs, reported an appalling story of drug abuse in the community. This ranged from

the consumption of growing numbers of over-the-counter mind-benders to the excessive use of legal and illegal narcotics. But its 440-page report, a well-reasoned and sympathetic examination of the problem, appears to have drowned in a sea of derision. This is because the South Australian Labor Government rejected, precipitately, its most controversial proposal — that the personal cultivation, possession and use of marijuana be legalised. Instead of giving the entire report detailed consideration and allowing it to be the basis for informed public debate, the Government effectively discredited it by hastily describing its main recommendation as unworkable. Significantly, it did not challenge the commission's findings that marijuana was no more harmful than alcohol or over-the-counter mood-altering drugs taken in large quantities, and that, in itself, it was not physically or psychologically addictive.

This week, the NSW Royal Commission into drugs issued its report. Its main task had been to investigate the criminal aspects of drug trafficking, particularly the alleged involvement of Riverina farmers in the mysterious disappearance and presumed death of the Griffith anti-drug campaigner Mr. Donald Mackay. The 2000-page

report paints a frightening picture of the extent of criminal activity in the drug market and the apparent inability of law enforcers to detect and convict the traffickers. The activities of the so-called Honored Society, comprising a large number of immigrant farmers from Calabria, Italy, and a number of Sydney-based heroin traffickers identified by the commission cannot be tolerated. The NSW Government's promise to try to bring them, and the small number of police who are alleged to be assisting them, to justice is welcome. But it is Mr. Justice Woodward's recommendations on how to combat illicit drugs in the future that deserve the greatest attention.

Unlike the South Australian commission, he does not support the legalisation of home-grown marijuana. While the South Australian commission was satisfied that marijuana was no more harmful than the excessive use of other freely available drugs like alcohol and pain-killers, and that the effort required to enforce the law was out of proportion with the drug's dangers, Mr. Justice Woodward has tackled the question from the other end. He says occasional use of marijuana does not appear harmful, but that medical evidence is not conclusive. He says legalisation would probably have an adverse effect on road and industrial safety and he clearly is not convinced that legalisation of home-grown marijuana would satisfy the large number of recreational and social users and, therefore, put traffickers out of business.

His main arguments, however, deal with harder drugs. In fact, he argues that too much emphasis is placed on catching users of marijuana instead of the pushers and importers of heroin and other narcotics. Only 5 per cent of people charged with drug offences in Australia are accused of trafficking. The rest are charged with unlawful possession or use of drugs. Mr. Justice Woodward is on the right track. Much more emphasis must be placed on detecting and convicting importers of heroin and other hard, addictive drugs. His suggestions on how to do it might appear Draconian and a threat to individual liberties. He proposes giving police the right to search houses without a search warrant under particular circumstances, to stop and search any vehicle or person reasonably suspected of carrying drugs, and to intercept telephone calls. But if the drug problem is as grave as his report claims, this may have to be done. Governments, however, should impose stringent safeguards to protect the rights of the

individual and they should resist pressure from other branches of the police force to extend such rights to other areas of criminal investigation. Drug law enforcement is a special case. Another recommendation worth pursuing is that Governments adopt three-year plans for the organisation and funding of drug treatment centres. This would allow greater co-ordination of the various programmes available in Australian cities, including the Odyssey House concept, about to begin in Melbourne, which Mr. Justice Woodward says is "a programme of integrity that could assist a number of drug users".

One of the other more spectacular recommendations in Mr. Justice Woodward's report is that the maximum penalty for drug trafficking be increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000. The Victorian Government is reported to be considering adopting this proposal and NSW yesterday agreed to it. But it is doubtful if it will have a significant effect on the drug problem. Overseas experience suggests that larger fines might encourage traffickers to do more to avoid arrest, either through bribes or the use of violence to silence informers. If trafficking is such a lucrative business, as Mr. Justice Woodward suggests, a fine of even \$200,000 will not hurt. Another suggestion, that courts be allowed to seize the assets of convicted traffickers, is also of questionable value. Offenders could side-step this by registering their possessions and bank accounts under false names.

It is Mr. Justice Woodward's main recommendation that deserves the immediate consideration of all Governments — that a national crime intelligence unit be established to aid and co-ordinate the activities of drug squads in all States, and to investigate organised and commercial crime. The lack of co-operation in the past, as well as having an inestimable effect on the success of anti-drug campaigns, severely hindered the NSW Royal Commission. Mr. Justice Woodward has reported that in his two years of work, the Federal Government and its agencies consistently refused to help him. Such parochial pettiness should stop. The Federal Government's decision to disband the Federal Narcotics Bureau and give the new Federal Police responsibility for drug law enforcement should be the first step in establishing such an intelligence unit. The Government's decision came after it received the interim report of its own Royal Commission

Info drugs. That report said the bureau was inefficient, restricted by its charter, and staffed by public servants, many of whom were unskilled in police work. A co-ordinating crime intelligence unit, with a special interest in drug trafficking and the involvement of organised crime cells like the Calabrian farmers at Griffith, is long overdue. Such a unit comprising members of all Federal and State police forces, would do much to encourage the reporting, exchanging and analysing of information gathered in different areas. Without it, Australia's fight against drugs might not be won.

#### Disbanding of Bureau Praised

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 8 Nov 79 p 6

[Editorial: "Drug Reports"]

[Text]

The Woodward and Williams reports are a frightening double. They confirm some of the worst fears about drug-trafficking in Australia today; more importantly they expose glaring weaknesses in our past efforts to combat the menace. They show graphically the extent of criminal organisation behind the drug trade, the corruptive pressures on police and the spread of addiction in the community.

Mr Justice Woodward's finding that the anti-drug campaigner Donald Mackay died at the hands of a Griffith-based drug ring will not surprise many Australians—the circumstances of his disappearance carried the strong taint of conspiracy—but the weight of an official report will add strongly to community disquiet. Many other disclosures in the judge's 2080-page report will bolster the unease.

Mr Hayden has sprung to the attack over Mr Justice Williams's damning conclusions about the Federal Narcotics Bureau. So he should, for Australians are entitled to know all the reasons. It is unfair to seek to pile all the blame on Mr Fife—he became Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs long after the bureau was established—but he has some

explaining to do in the light of questions raised by Mr Hayden about events in the past 16 months.

Wherever the blame lies, it must be accepted that things have gone wrong and that remedial action is needed quickly. The Federal Government's move to disband the bureau has been commendably swift; the reorganisation of the bureau's work under the Federal Police Force must be carried out smartly too so that no further ground is lost in the fight against a desperate and unsavoury enemy. The fear is that the value of the transfer process will be undermined by the same bureaucratic rivalry that beset the system in the first place—rivalry that showed up in the bureau's resistance to outside help and its excessively secretive make-up.

It would be tragic if all the staff of the narcotics bureau were to be stained by the broad brush of criticism and if, for that reason, the Federal Police Force were to be denied some of the available detective talent. What emerges clearly from the two reports is the need for a consolidated and unified defence against drugs and drug-runners. A co-operative effort and intelligence structure, as recommended by Mr Justice Woodward, must be our main goal from now on.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

PRO'S, CON'S OF MARIHUANA LEGALIZATION DISCUSSED

Melbourne Anglicans' Report

Melbourne THE AGE in English 1 Oct 79 p 3

[Text]

An Anglican Church report has given qualified support to cuts in penalties for possession of marijuana.

The report says it seems "most unfortunate" that marijuana possession is a criminal offence under Victorian law.

"This means that young persons convicted under the law receive penalties as well as the stigma of a criminal record, which do not seem warranted by the activities," the report says.

Lower penalties for possessing the drug would be reasonable if it could be shown that it does not lead to serious consequences, according to the report.

It says a fine rather than imprisonment might be considered for a person convicted of having a small quantity of marijuana.

The report is by the social questions committee on marijuana set up by the Anglican diocese of Melbourne. It will be considered by the diocesan synod, which starts tonight.

It recommends that the State Government evaluate reduced penalties introduced in other countries as well as medical and other evidence about marijuana's effects.

Victorian law allows a magistrate to impose a sentence of up to one year's jail or a fine up to \$500 on a person convicted of marijuana possession.

Ten American States have now introduced legislation to allow possession of small quantities of marijuana without penalty. The first was Oregon in 1973.

The Anglican report says that studies before 1977 in Oregon indicated no significant rise in marijuana use among those over 18. Forty per cent used less than before and 5 per cent used more.

The report says that while the State still wants to restrict the drug's availability "it recognises that moderate use . . . is not likely to bring serious consequences to the community".

"It seems to us that it would be reasonable that the law be altered if scientific data clearly shows that use of marijuana in moderation does not lead to serious consequences and means are developed for readily determining whether a person's performance is adversely affected by the drug," it says.

But the report argues that "on present knowledge there may be some harmful consequences to persons who use marijuana moderately".

It says one strong argument against legalising marijuana is its effects on driving.

"Marijuana distorts one's perception of distance and time and may create lethargy," it says.

"With legalisation, greater numbers of people are likely to use marijuana in greater quantities. This legalisation could lead to increased risk of accidents on our roads."

In SYDNEY, a petition of more than 130,000 signatures supporting the decriminalisation of marijuana possession will soon be presented to the NSW Parliament.

The petition is the biggest to go before Parliament.

It has been compiled by the Marijuana Petition Organisation, which has been collecting signatures throughout NSW since January 1.

Labor MLA Mr. Rod Cavalier has agreed to present the petition.

Mr. Cavalier, a non-smoker and teetotaler, said yesterday he could see no reason why people should be treated as criminals for possessing small amounts of the drug.

The petition will be presented to coincide with the release of the findings of the Woodward

Royal Commission into drug trafficking.

Mr. Justice Woodward is expected to complete his report by the end of the month.

The petition has been signed by politicians, business leaders, policemen and show business personalities.

A spokesman for the organisation, Mr. Neil Hutchinson, said the petition should contain about 150,000 signatures when it was presented to Parliament.

The petition calls on the State Government to:

Take immediate action to remove penalties for the possession and use of marijuana.

Consider allowing people to grow the drug in small quantities for personal use.

Remove all criminal records of people convicted of marijuana-related offences.

Police Inspector's Comment

Melbourne THE AGE in English 2 Oct 79 p 3

[Text]

Victoria Police are opposed to lesser penalties for possession of marijuana, the head of the drug squad, Detective Inspector Geoff Baker, said yesterday.

"We have not altered our views," he said.

Inspector Baker was commenting on an Anglican Church report which has given qualified support to lower penalties.

The report said it seemed most unfortunate that possession of marijuana was a criminal offence in Victoria.

Inspector Baker said the chief commissioners of Australia's police forces last year opposed any reductions in the penalties.

Victorian law allows a magistrate to impose a sentence of up to one year's jail and/or a fine of up to \$500 on a person convicted of possession of marijuana.

Trafficking

Inspector Baker said penalties for trafficking in hashish or drugs of addiction were up to 15 years' jail and/or a \$100,000 fine.

The drug squad is concentrating its investigations into the distribution of hard drugs in Victoria but senior police claim there has been no let-up in raids on people of possession of marijuana.

Police sources said some of the work of the drug squad in this area was now handled by suburban and country police to allow the squad members more time to trace hard drug traffickers and offenders.

The Anglican Church report, published in 'The Age' yesterday, said a fine rather than jail might be considered for a person convicted of having a small quantity of marijuana.

Government Whip's Remarks

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Oct 79 p 3

[Text]

By Medical Writer RON HICKS

THE Federal Government Whip in the Senate, Senator Peter Baume, yesterday supported the decriminalisation of cannabis.

Senator Baume said there was inconsistency in laws that allowed people to "slowly kill themselves" by smoking cigarettes or over-indulgence in alcohol, yet stopped them from using other drugs which "some experts believe are less damaging to health".

Senator Baume, who is chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, was giving the William Arnold Conolly oration at the opening of the annual meeting of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Melbourne.

His theme was the rights of the individual as opposed to the rights of the community, and the case for State intervention.

A former general practitioner himself, Senator Baume told the doctors; "Free men too readily give up their liberties whenever the State demands extra powers and prerogatives."

"Only where private actions have clearly deleterious public consequences am I prepared, like Mill (the English philosopher John Stuart Mill), to intervene," he said.

"Thus I support both the right of the smoker to kill himself and of the State to offset the inevitable public costs with high excise. Excise not for revenue, but to offset public costs of smoking.

"I support the rights of the individual to injure himself with alcohol only so long as others are not harmed (as in road accidents).

"I am unimpressed by the reasons offered for the criminalisation of cannabis use, but, because the narcotics pusher harms other people, I support intervention against him."

CSO: 5300



AUSTRALIA

JUDGE CLAIMS ADDICT LEARNED HEROIN HABIT IN PRISON

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Oct 79 p 31

[Text] A man who attempted two armed hold-ups at pharmacies had his first experience of hard drugs in Fremantle prison, it was alleged in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr J. R. Quigley, defending, said that by the time Ross Dalrymple (26) was released from gaol he had become addicted to heroin.

When Dalrymple committed the two offences at the pharmacies he was desperate for drugs, he said.

Dalrymple, of Lucas Street Willagee, admitted assaulting pharmacists with intent to steal and threatening violence while armed with a tomahawk at one shop and an iron bar at the other.

Both offences were committed on June 2 at Melville and Ardross.

DISARMED

The court was told that the Melville pharmacist recognised Dalrymple as a known drug user and disarmed him when he was distracted.

Dalrymple was in an agitated state so the

pharmacist gave him an ampoule and a syringe. Dalrymple left and injected himself.

When the duty pharmacist at the Ardross shop refused to give Dalrymple drugs he had handed over the iron bar and left.

Dalrymple told the police shortly afterwards that he was suicidal from his craving for drugs.

Mr Quigley said Dalrymple stressed to him that though he had been in severe pain he had no intention of harming anybody. He had wanted only to scare the pharmacists into giving him drugs.

Dalrymple, who was on probation, had been in hospital three or four days till he "snapped" ran for it and committed the offences.

GIVEN OPIATES

In 1971 Dalrymple had

contracted osteomyelitis and was given opiates in hospital. An orderly had given him extra doses of codeine and morphine.

Dalrymple had developed a habit and suffered withdrawal symptoms when he left hospital, but he had overcome this.

He was sentenced to imprisonment in 1972 and in 1973 was introduced to heroin by other prisoners in Fremantle.

It was only after his release that he started committing offences relating to drugs, Mr Quigley said.

Mr Justice Wallace said that Dalrymple was a menace in the community, but the details of his two offences made pathetic reading.

He remanded Dalrymple for pre-sentence and psychiatric reports.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

SENATOR QUESTIONS VERDICTS ON ADDICT 'SUICIDES'

Melbourne THE AGE in English 3 Oct 79 p 11

[Article by Victorian Liberal Senator Austin Lewis: "Drugs Take an Extra Toll"]

[Text]

**D**ESPITE the limited value of official suicide statistics, consideration of the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics raises alarm.

They show that suicide (by which I mean suicide and death caused by self-inflicted injuries) is now the second most common form of death in Australia for the late teens and young adult groups.

The figures for 1977 show that 92 people aged between 15 and 19 committed suicide, there were 154 suicides among people aged between 20 and 24 years and 163 among those aged from 25 to 29. In all, 409 deaths.

One of the matters of concern is the number of drug deaths reported as suicide which could be homicide. Overdose deaths have become so common as to be no longer newsworthy, unless the deceased or the family of the deceased is well known.

Police are responsible for reporting a death from unnatural causes and for collecting evidence. The depth and quantity of that evidence may differ substantially. Police frequently face a conspiracy of silence from the drug scene, people who might otherwise be able to assist them in their inquiries. Overworked police may not be able to investigate all apparent suicides as thoroughly as they wish.

With feelings of compassion and sympathy for the family of the deceased and hostility from

potential witnesses, it is not surprising that the police frequently tend to look no further for evidence than the primary cause of death furnished by the medical practitioner.

As the unfortunate addicts exhaust their avenues of obtaining money to buy drugs, they resort to more desperate criminal activity to pay for their inevitable race with death. At that stage they are ripe to turn informers to the police or a rival crime syndicate. Such information threatens the syndicate and thereby further places at risk the life of the addict.

There is an element of fear surrounding trafficking stretching from the threat of reprisals to blackmail and murder. Two examples may serve to illustrate this. Recently it was reported that a number of inhabitants of Magnetic Island said they had watched what they believed were consignments of drugs arriving on the island at night, but took care to "mind their own business".

It has been put to me that a youth in a country town was found by a coroner's court to have died from a self-inflicted overdose, but that the deceased was held down and a lethal dose injected by another person, because the deceased was going to "dob them in".

However, on being pressed for further information, the informant backed off not only refusing to give assistance to the authorities, but saying he would deny the story if attributed to him. I

do not blame him. The risks are too great. The volume of money available to the traffickers buys silence. If not, the threat of death will.

Drug traffickers, particularly those engaged in large-scale dealing, continue to become more professional and difficult to detect and arrest.

There are immense difficulties in obtaining estimates of the number of drug victims that should have been attributed to foul play.

For example, a person in the last stages of heroin addiction could easily be supplied with a different quality of heroin which when self-inflicted would be lethal, or an addict desperate for a "shot" could be overdosed by a colleague without any signs that the injection was not self-inflicted.

Is there any point in investigating deaths in more depth when the primary cause of death is medically attributed to heroin or other similar hard drugs? There is persuasive argument for the extension of routine investigations to cover the possibility of homicide or other criminal cause in all such cases.

If such deaths have been contrived it is a most dangerous weapon in the hands of the crime syndicates: instilling fear and demanding silence. There may be advantage in referring such deaths to a special squad which could develop expertise in this field.

Traffickers are amoral and have no hesitation in encouraging addiction. One expert estimates that the number of heroin addicts in Australia could grow to 200,000 by 1982.

One police expert has been reported as saying that there has been a steady increase in the number of unreported crimes committed within the drug subculture. "Victims of these crimes are unlikely to report them to the police because of their involvement with drugs. Both parties involved in the 'rip-off' — one dealer robbing another — are in a no-man's land and have nothing to gain by letting the police know."

The conspiracy of silence and lack of public co-operation is understandable but its consequences are of grave concern. The continued increase in suicides or other self-inflicted causes of death coupled with growth in heroin addiction amongst our most vulnerable age groups can only be described as alarming.

Exacerbating the problem is the threat of a flood of supplies from a new source — Iran. In the current upheaval in Iran, opium growers in the north have taken the opportunity to increase their acreages. Further along the line there are big scale dealers who use exports as a way of getting their frozen capital out of Iran.

This flood has already reached Europe and there is some evidence that heroin from this source is now reaching Australia. Each new source of supply stretches the resources of our limited preventative services further.

Two statements made recently, if they could be substantiated, would suggest a level of corruption associated with drug trafficking that would demand instant action.

One was by Dr. A. McCoy, a lecturer at the University of New South Wales, who said that: "Heroin has a profit structure that makes it politically strong and virtually impossible to eradicate with established police structures . . . The crime syndicates have the money to purchase political protection and political complicity."

The second was by Mr. Bernard Delaney, a former southern regional director of the Narcotics Bureau who said: "Organised crime cannot exist without corruption and manipulating police, lawyers and politicians . . . A hard core corruption ran right through the ranks of the NSW police force.

"The many honest policemen are not allowed to go about their business as they might . . . Those corrupt policemen who protect certain criminal elements are in turn protected by equally corrupt senior officers and politicians."

Strong stuff if it is true, and well designed to maximise publicity, but if the accusations are baseless they will be counter-productive in diminishing confidence in the very authorities that are charged with the task of stamping out the crime.

At the Federal level and in the State of Victoria, the accusations of political corruption could be levelled at no more than six Ministers of the Crown who would have the power to interfere with the course of justice.

These Ministers are known to me personally and I would reject out of hand any suggestion of corruption on their part. They are men of unquestioned integrity. Other politicians could not provide the protection alleged.

I am unable to speak so personally about the policemen of Australia, but the vast majority of them carry out a pretty thankless task on modest salaries and live accordingly. Where officers are living lavishly or seem to have acquired substantial unexplained assets, they should be investigated.

Certainly the risk of corruption should not be underestimated. These criminal activities involve millions of dollars but by their allegations Dr. McCoy and Mr. Delaney imply the simplistic solution: "All we need to do is rid ourselves of our corrupt police, lawyers and politicians".

That suggested solution misleads the people in that it lulls them into a belief that there is an easy solution to the problem.

Reference was made by Dr. McCoy to the profit structure. That is the problem: the enormous

revenue available to those involved in trafficking.

Given unlimited funds — perhaps tens of millions of dollars — it is possible to bring drugs into Australia and distribute them in such quantities that an ever vigilant, uncorrupted Narcotics Bureau and police force simply cannot detect more than a small percentage of the drugs imported.

The same principle applies to the distribution of drugs. Corruption is more likely to occur if and when an important link in the chain is subject to investigation and criminal charges.

That is when important evidence may be stolen, important witnesses may be suborned or murdered, or as a last resort juries and judges bribed or blackmailed.

Correction: even that may not be the last resort, the final resort may be an escape from detention. All organised and paid for with the unlimited funds available to these criminals.

Unless and until the community realises the extent of the resources available to traffickers it will not be prepared to provide governments, both State and Federal, with the necessary funds for the men and equipment needed to detect and convict the "Mr. Bigs" involved in these terrible crimes.

But in the long run what must be the solution to the crime? In my view, it is necessary for the world to treat this as an international crime similar to piracy, i.e. outlawed, and given the same degree of priority in world police discussions as terrorism and hijacking.

The world sources of supply in the "Golden Triangle" and Iran should be defoliated. Compensation should be paid, perhaps annually, but that would be a small price compared to the cost to the world today in money, lives and pain.

The world media has an important and responsible role to play in alerting the community to the dangers we face, in exposing the problems and in creating an overwhelming demand for a solution.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

COUNSEL URGES MANDATORY JAIL SENTENCES FOR PUSHERS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Oct 79 p 11

[Text] People who deliberately dabbled in distributing drugs should all be sent to prison, a crown counsel told an appeal court yesterday.

At the time of enactment of the drug laws Parliament had provided for a fine in the prescribed penalties, but times had changed, said Mr R. J. Davies.

The number of people coming before the courts charged with drug distribution offences was escalating at an alarming rate.

**CLEAR NEED**

There was a clear need for more deterrent sentences.

A lot of wrong information—without the facts to back it up—was being put around the community that the prison population was higher in WA than anywhere else.

In cases of drug distribution, however small, there should be no question of the courts trying to keep the prison population down.

Though there was provision for a fine, such a penalty should not be considered as an alternative where there was deliberate drug distribution.

People distributing drugs were not frightened by monetary punishment.

The State had once had a spate of armed robberies, but the number was dropping as far as banks were concerned because of strong sentencing.

**RADICAL**

The Chief Justice, Sir Francis Burt, said that Mr Davies's submission was rather radical.

Parliament must have intended that there were some such cases which were adequately and properly disposed of by way of a fine, he said. The problem was identifying the cases.

The deterrence of custodial sentences was appreciated.

But Mr Davies was proposing that the courts make no assessment based on experience and that they put to one side their power to fine anybody convicted of such offences.

Mr Davies replied that the crown did not shy away from its submission.

Only very strong reasons—such as lack of mental capacity to appreciate the seriousness of the offence—should save from prison a person who was deliberately flouting the drug distribution laws.

Mr Davies said that in the appeal before the court there was nothing to show that the sentencing judge in the District Court had not been entitled to imprison the offender.

He opposed Peter Robert Marlow's appeal to the court that he should not have been sent to prison for possessing cannabis with intent to sell or supply it and that his sentence of 18 months' gaol with a nine-month minimum before parole should be replaced by an alternative penalty such as a fine or probation.

The Court of Criminal Appeal reserved its decision.

(Before the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Burt, Mr Justice Wickham and Mr Justice Smith, Mr R. V. Lennie for Marlow, Mr R. J. Davies for the crown.)

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND DRUG DEPENDENCE SERVICE DIRECTOR RESIGNS

Reasons for Resignation Given

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 4 Oct 79 p 3

[Text]

**QUEENSLAND'S Alcohol and Drug Dependence Service director (Dr. Alan Freed) has resigned.**

And he said yesterday that several other staff attached to the Biala Detoxication and Treatment Centre, in Roma Street, were likely to quit also. They include other doctors.

Dr. Freed, submitted his resignation to the Health Department on Monday, and the Health Minister (Sir William Knox) confirmed yesterday that he had accepted it.

Sir William said he had a high regard for Dr. Freed and hoped they could meet to discuss the position. He would ask Dr. Freed to reconsider the resignation.

Dr. Freed was invited to Queensland three years ago following his success in treating and reducing the drug addict population at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England.

There, Dr. Freed succeeded in getting 55 out of 77 hard drug users permanently off their habit. One recognition of his work was an introduction to the Queen in 1975.

He said the main reason for the resignation, was the difficulty he had in getting his professional views heard by senior Health Department officials.

"They were hearing me, and they suddenly changed their minds for some reason that I have never understood," he said.

"There is a difference of goals somewhere between me and the Public Service or the Health Department."

He said the problem was serving two masters — as a public servant and as a professional with obligations to the people. "There are people whose needs have to be met. I, as a professional, understand what their needs are."

Dr. Freed said: "I believe that planning a service should incorporate the ideas of highly competent people, yet a member of my staff has not been listened to for over a year."

The staff man was a minister of the church, held a doctorate of philosophy in sociology and was in no way a radical, he said.

Dr. Freed said: "I would like a fair-minded attitude to the way problems are solved, without conclusions being drawn on incorrect evidence heard from one perhaps favoured source."

"I believe that some staff receive undue favours. There is a by-passing of the directorate of the branch."

He said he believed the Health Department's machanism for dealing with problems which arose, did not involve an intelligent search for evidence.

"Things are done in temper, without regard for one's dignity, and I believe mistakes are too often lumbered on a junior."

"I would like the complaints that I have aired to be heard by people who won't use what emerges for other purposes, but purely to solve the situation."

"I would like to go to someone able to hear what I say who does not suggest that I had better go and look after my future, and then retract it late and reassure me I'm wanted."

"I don't think that is the way to solve problems."

Dr. Freed said another problem was that the Biala centre had two entrances, but all patients, whether "down and outs" or more "respectable" types, could use only one under Health Department directions.

Those patients who did not like to see others in a more advanced stage of alcoholism, had no alternative entrance.

"It has been suggested by two senior

Health Department members that the more 'down and out' patients come in through the garage.

"I don't believe the building was built for patients to come in through the garage.

"I can't accept that patients in an inebriated state should not be seen in the foyer of a place which was built for that purpose."

He said Biala had had dramatic results in its treatment of Alcoholic Anonymous members alone. Attending 19 meetings each week at Biala, within one year, 450 out of a 600 or so chronic alcoholics had been greatly helped.

Dr Freed, said because of Budget restrictions, only 23 out of Biala's 31 detoxication beds could be staffed.

"But when a senior officer tells me the building was never really intended for detoxication, that it is only incidental to treatment -- that it's only a ploy and is not really a proper part of treatment -- that is something which I can't accept.

He said the building, originally was designed for 50 detoxication patients, and to call the detoxication programme a ploy was wrong.

Biala's staff was dedicated. High calibre professionals and also non professionals and volunteers eventually would overcome current low morale, said Dr. Freed.

"On the other hand there are those staff who feel they have been under attack, who may resign when they can afford to financially."

State Opposition spokesman for health, Mr. D'Arcy said today he would be calling for a public inquiry into the Queensland Health Department when Parliament resumed today.

### Service To Be Investigated

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 5 Oct 79 p 9

[Text] The Public Service Board is to investigate the State's Alcohol and Drug Dependence Service following the resignation of the director (Dr. Alan Freed) on Monday.

The investigation was requested by the Health Minister (Sir William Knox), and approved by State Cabinet.

Sir William said: "I took this action in the interests of the service, and in particular the people who require care, treatment and guidance through the department."

He said the Public Service Board would appoint a person outside the Public Service to head the investigation, together with the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. R. J. Howatson).

### Investigation

They would investigate "the efficiency, economy and general working of the Alcohol and Drug Dependence Service and would make such recommendations as thought fit."

Sir William said the appointment of a person outside the Public Service to the investigation would be discussed with the Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen).

Dr. Freed said yesterday the investigation might cause him to reconsider his resignation (effective from the end of this month), or in-

fluence him to bring it forward.

He would see how the investigation functioned before making his decision.

### Complaints

Dr. Freed said the investigation should concern itself solely with the needs of the service's patients, and whether facilities were designed to give them service of the desirable standard.

He had made specific complaints to the Health Minister, and hoped these would be covered in the proposed investigation.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

MP NOTES THAILAND HOLDING AUSTRALIAN DRUG OFFENDERS

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 6 Oct 7 p 4

[Text]

**CANBERRA.** — Australians have the highest incidence of drug offences of any foreign visitors to Thailand, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bowen, said yesterday.

There were 19 Australians being held in Bangkok prisons either charged with, or convicted of, drug offences.

"Young Australians travelling overseas, particularly through South-East Asia, should be warned again and again of the dangers they face if they become involved in any way with drug trafficking," Mr Bowen said yesterday.

The drug problem had become so pronounced for young Australians there that consulate staff were unable to cope with the demand for help.

Mr Bowen was speaking after his return from Thailand, where he attended an ASEAN Inter-parliamentary conference as an official observer.

He warned that potential drug offenders in Thailand faced jail sentences of 20 years or more, or even the death penalty.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA POLICE REPORT HEROIN OFFENSES DOUBLED IN 1978

Melbourne THE AGE in English 10 Oct 79 p 5

[Report from Steve Ballard]

[Excerpt] Victoria's heroin offences doubled last year, according to a report tabled in State Parliament last night.

The Victoria Police report listed 803 offences involving heroin compared with 341 in the previous year.

In 1974 only 67 heroin offences were detected.

The number of miscellaneous drug offences, which relate to synthetic drugs of addiction and restricted substances obtained illegally, also show a dramatic increase from 52 in 1977 to 232 last year.

The report said 65 drug traffickers were arrested on 95 charges, 30 relating to heroin.

By comparison, the 2918 offences involving Indian hemp last year was 388 down on the previous year.

In the report the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Mick Miller, said robberies at doctors' surgeries and pharmacies had increased and seemed to confirm the increase in hard drug usage.

He said the escalation of drug trafficking had introduced a new element of violence to robberies.

"This particular area of crime provides fertile ground for the development of organised crime and therefore receives close attention," Mr. Miller said.

CSO: 5300



AUSTRALIA

BRISBANE DRUG ADDICTS REPORTEDLY ABUSE METHADONE AID

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Oct 79 p 1

[Text] Drug users were continuing to use heroin, barbiturates and hashish while on the State Government's methadone programme, it was claimed yesterday.

Brisbane Teen Challenge executive director (the Rev. Charles Ringma) said methadone was being used as an extra drug by some users. Its correct purpose was to help wean them off heroin.

Mr. Ringma said one drug user had told him: "The Government gives us our daily bread in methadone. — we buy the butter and jam on top of our bread."

He said the biggest area of concern was the apparent lack of control once a person was admitted to the methadone programme.

Several people on methadone had admitted that they had not been seen by a doctor, counsellor or social worker for nearly a year — but they continued to get their daily dose of the drug from the chemist.

"I am concerned that methadone is too readily available. People with only a minor narcotic habit are admitted to the programme," Mr. Ringma said.

"And once they are on the programme, there is inadequate control. You cannot just put someone on a substitute drug and hope they get better."

Mr. Ringma said some young people were deliberately developing a minor narcotic habit to get on methadone.

To be on methadone was the new status symbol of having been a heavy drug user. Others were going on to narcotic use with

the nonchalant attitude that they could always fall back on the Government methadone programme if things did not work out.

Teen Challenge is a non-denominational drug referral centre.

A spokesman for the Health Department alcohol and drug dependence service said that in cases where it was felt necessary, urine testing was carried out to determine whether other drugs were being used.

He denied that people in the Brisbane area were not seeing a doctor, counsellor or social worker for nearly a year while they were on methadone.

Contact was made at least once a month.

Anyone on methadone had to take the dose in the presence of the chemist who supplied it.

The drug was used to take people out of the heroin scene and 30 per cent of those on methadone held jobs.

"Up until Mr. Ringma's comments, the status of being on methadone was far lower than those on heroin. Whether that will change after his statement I don't know," the spokesman said.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

NEW ZEALANDER SENTENCED--A drug offender sentenced yesterday is believed to be the first to receive dual penalties--three years' gaol with a one-year minimum and a \$10,000 fine. Mr Justice Wallace said in the Supreme Court that Edward Keith Juson (25), a New Zealander, had also forfeited any right to reside in Australia. He should be deported as soon as it was possible and not be allowed back into the country. Juson, a roofing contractor, came to Australia in 1974 and to WA in May last year. A jury convicted him last week of selling heroin. The judge said he considered that Juson's position in the chain of supply was higher than Juson would have him believe. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Oct 79 p 22].

MARIHUANA FARMS DISCOVERED--Ipswich.--Police will allege a New South Wales farmer conspired with others to cultivate marihuana estimated to have a street value of between \$10 million and \$20 million, the Magistrate's Court was told yesterday. Raymond William Lewis, 28, of Janda Street, Sunnybank, entered no plea to two charges of possessing a dangerous drug and one charge of corruptly offering \$20,000 to two detectives. Prosecutor (Sergeant Arthur Jamieson) said New South Wales police had issued a provisional warrant for Lewis' arrest. Under the warrant, Lewis would be charged that between March 1, 1976, and June 29, 1977, at Page's Creek in New South Wales, Lewis and Gordon Robert Newton, Frank Patrick Lovett, Thomas Sommerville and diverse others conspired together and among themselves, to unlawfully cultivate a prohibited plant, Indian hemp. Opposing bail, Sergeant Jamieson said it would be alleged Lewis owned three farms at Page's Creek, near Newcastle and 75 kilograms of dried and cut Indian hemp was found at one farm. He said police would allege 4.5 hectares of marihuana, growing to an average height of 3.2 metres, on another plantation. He said the marihuana, if processed, would have had street value of between \$10 million and \$20 million. [Excerpt] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 9 Oct 79 p 3]

MARIHUANA FARMERS CHARGED--A man and a woman appeared in Cessnock Court of Petty Sessions yesterday charged with possessing and cultivating Indian hemp after a police raid on a marihuana plantation where plants allegedly worth more than \$7 million were being grown. The two charged were Wayne Gregory Dyer and Suzanne Dodds, both 28, of Barool Street, St Ives. Mr K. Clarke, SM,

remanded Dyer and Dodds until October 22 and released each on self bail of \$10,000 with a similar surety. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 9 Oct 79 p 9]

REHABILITATION GROUP'S REQUEST--About 180 members of the drug rehabilitation group, We Help Ourselves (WHOS) demonstrated noisily outside State Parliament House at lunchtime yesterday. The managing director, Mr David Gordon, spoke to the demonstrators, saying the group had sought \$398,000 from the Drug and Alcohol Authority but had been given only \$70,000. WHOS would have to close its 24-hour emergency referral centre at Crows Nest from Friday if the State Government did not give more money. The group closed its Armidale centre, which had 30 residents, at the weekend, transferring the addicts to its Goulbourn farm. The Minister for Health, Mr Stewart, has agreed to see a delegation from WHOS this week. Mr Stewart's office announced yesterday what it said were record grants in NSW for drug and alcohol treatment. The grants, to voluntary groups helping drug addicts and alcoholics, totalled \$2.3 million. An extra \$700,000 had been set aside for these needs in the 1979-80 Budget. Projects previously funded would get \$1.9 million and more than \$400,000 would go to new projects. [Excerpts] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 9 Oct 79 p 9]

HEROIN OFFENDER JAILED--A young woman expecting the birth of her baby any day was sentenced in the Supreme Court yesterday to three years' and seven months' gaol for heroin offences. Mr Justice Brinsden ordered that Karen Jean High (22), a former Psychology student at Murdoch University, must serve seven months before parole. She had admitted smuggling heroin into Australia and a second offence of possessing the heroin in March. She had swallowed 21 condoms containing heroin she bought in Bangkok for \$600. Anthony Mark Barrington, (25), who earlier admitted being knowingly concerned in importing the heroin was sentenced to 4 1/2 year's gaol with a minimum of 18 months. Mr Justice Brinsden said he believed that Miss High and Barrington had entered into the offences on the understanding that some of the heroin would be sold, though Barrington, then a drug addict, probably would have used some himself. The 33 grams illegally imported contained 25.4 grams of pure heroin. Its street value was not less than \$12,500 and was probably as high as \$22,500. There was no sale because the heroin had been confiscated by narcotics agents. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Oct 79 p 4]

DRUG TERM CUT--A drug offender who faced 15 1/2 years' gaol with no minimum term six months ago has had the term cut to three years' minimum after a new trial and resentencing. At his first trial in February Dominick Mancini (25) pleaded not guilty to four heroin offences but was convicted by a jury. At his second trial last month he was convicted of one offence, which he admitted. He was sentenced in the Supreme Court yesterday to five years' gaol for that offence--possessing heroin at Applecross on September 14 last year with intent to supply it. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Oct 79 p 9]

NEW ZEALANDER CHARGED--Darwin.--A 27-year-old New Zealander was remanded in custody after a brief appearance in the Darwin Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of importing and possessing heroin. John Anton Horwood, who gave his address as Cottlesloe, Perth, was remanded until November 1. He was charged on Sunday after a dawn raid by narcotics agents on a motel room in Darwin. The Crown prosecutor, Mr Terry Gardiner, said it would be alleged that Horwood was found in possession of 860 grams of relatively pure heroin. The Federal Narcotics Bureau was making further inquiries in Australia and overseas. Horwood entered no plea. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Oct 79 p 3]

MARIHUANA PLANTATION--Police in New South Wales say they have found a plantation growing marihuana with an estimated street value of \$10 million, the equivalent of about 11 million dollars American. They say they had had the plantation under surveillance for a month since it was discovered by a police helicopter in mountainous country near the city of Newcastle. Police say it could be the biggest marihuana plantation ever found in New South Wales with more than 100,000 half grown plants. Police say they plan to poison the plants. They say they have not caught the grower and believe he was scared off by the police helicopter. [Text] [OW061713 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Nov 79 OW]

DRUG COMMISSION REPORT--The New South Wales Royal Commission into drug trafficking has found that heroin users annually spend \$59 million, the equivalent of about 65 million dollars American. The commission's report by Mister Justice Woodward also found that between 3 and 5 percent of the population is using cannabis at least once a month and that the drug trade is growing. Mr Justice Woodward recommends that penalties for serious drug offenses should be increased four-fold to \$200,000 and that there should be no legalization of marihuana. The commission's 2,000-page report follows 2 years of inquiry. It found that the Griffith businessman and antidrug campaigner, Mr Donald Mackay, who disappeared 2 years ago, was killed for or by an Italian cannabis growing syndicate in the Riverina district. The report mentions a coverup by some police and the existence of a secret (Kalabrian) group sometimes called the "Honest Society," and says there was a widespread organization to market marihuana and to dispose of the money gained. It names the people believed to have been involved in the trade and the disappearance of Mr Mackay. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Nov 79 OW]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN TSUN WAN OPENS

Lee Relates Bangkok Experience

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 13 Nov 79 p 14

[Text]

There will be a bumper crop of opium in the Golden Triangle if good weather there continues, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, said yesterday.

He has just returned from Bangkok, where he attended a five-day World Health Organisation workshop on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

Last year there was a drought and the Golden Triangle produced only about 150 tons of opium, driving up the cost of heroin.

He said: "That drought, plus good law enforcement in Hongkong and Thailand, means absolute scarcity of heroin and nowhere higher than Hongkong."

Mr Lee was speaking at the start of an anti-drug campaign in Tsun Wan.

The Golden Triangle,

where the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand meet, usually produces 500 tons of opium a year.

For the first time the Government of Vietnam sent a representative to a workshop.

"He showed an interesting film on the way their Government treats the large number of drug addicts that were found in old Saigon."

At the Bangkok conference Mr Lee explained how Hongkong's Central Registry of Drug Addicts works.

Mr Lee said yesterday that Hongkong is unique in Asia for its anti-narcotics campaigns.

Twenty-six doctors from various Asian countries, now in Hongkong on a World Health Organisation anti-drug training course, will attend the opening on Sunday of the Tsun Wan campaign.

The chairman of the campaign is Mr Ho Chi-ping.

With Mr Ho yesterday was the town manager of Tsun Wan, Mr J. W. Hayes, and representing the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Mr Karl Stumpf.

Mr Stumpf said: "The enemy is on the retreat."

"Heroin has become an expensive item, available in very limited quantities only. The big syndicates have disappeared."

"But the enemy is only on the retreat and we still are far from a final victory."

"There are still tens of thousands of drug abusers in our community, the majority of whom are between the ages of 20 and 30."

Tsun Wan was picked because of its rapid growth. It does not have a high addiction rate.

Keep Up Good Work

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Nov 79 p 20

[Text]

We still face "an enormous task" in the war on drug addiction, the acting Governor, Sir Jack Cater, said yesterday.

Opening the Tsun Wan Anti-Narcotics Campaign, Sir Jack said the Government's objectives were to stop the import of illicit drugs and to eliminate drug abuse in the community.

Significant progress is being made, through the dedicated efforts of those involved, at the official, unofficial and the community levels.

"But an enormous task still lies ahead — we still have between 35,000 and 50,000 addicts — this is therefore, no time to relax our endeavours," he said.

Sir Jack said drug abuse has been a major social problem here for many years.

"It is not only destructive to the addict himself, but is of enormous potential danger to his family and to the community of which he is part.

"We recognised this threat many years ago, and have taken energetic action to deal with it, through carefully co-ordinated programmes of law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education and publicity, and international action.

"The success of our efforts, achieved after unremitting work and the expenditure of considerable resources, is evidenced today by the record prices of drugs on the streets, the very large numbers of addicts in treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare, the declining involvement of young people in the drug scene, and the greatly reduced number of those convicted of minor drug offences."

However, Sir Jack said, in a world in which drug abuse is increasing dramatically and is producing enormous profits for the traffickers, the Government cannot afford to relax its efforts in any way.

Also, the support of the general public is equally important, he stressed.

"It is just as much for their benefit that we strive, as for those who are already addicted to drugs, or for those who are at risk of being enticed into addiction," he said.

Sir Jack also noted that as a result of the strenuous and devoted efforts by a great many people working in anti-drug campaigns, there is solid

evidence that local people are now more acutely aware of the problems and dangers of drug abuses, and better informed about them, than ever before.

Also attending the opening ceremony today were the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, the Tsun Wan town manager, Mr James Hayes, the campaign chairman, Mr Ho Chi-ping, and the chairman of Acan's Preventive, Education, and Publicity Sub-Committee, Mr Karl Stumpf.

After the opening ceremony, Sir Jack inspected a colourful procession of floats, bands, dragon and lion dance teams and the famous Chiu Chow gong and drum folk dance team.

More than 2,000 students and residents from Tsun Wan took part in the procession which was watched by more than 100,000 residents.

About 100 anti-drug preventive and publicity activities have been lined up for the 600,000 residents of Tsun Wan District which covers Tsun Wan proper, Kwai Chung, Ma Wan and Tsing Yi Island during the campaign period.

These include a seminar, an exhibition, visits to anti-drug institutions, walkathon, children games day, open air painting competition, treasure hunting, film shows, soccer, basketball, speech, drama, photography, poster and slogan design competitions.

The Tsun Wan campaign is the last and biggest of the three district campaigns launched by the Action Committee Against Narcotics this year.

The three campaigns were targeted at more than one million residents living in Wanchai, Mongkok and Tsun Wan districts.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

## BIG LOCAL TRAINING COURSE JOINS THE WAR ON DRUGS

Commissioner Lee Gives Briefing

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Oct 79 p 13

[Text]

Hongkong will host the World Health Organisation's first inter-regional physician training course on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents.

The month-long course begins on Tuesday.

It is organised by the Government as part of its contribution to the international fight against drug abuse.

The Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, said yesterday the course will centre on the provision of intensive training programmes in treatment and rehabilitation for overseas personnel, especially those from the Asian region.

"Twenty physicians from Egypt, Afghanistan, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Hongkong, Indonesia and the Philippines will participate in this intensive course.

"The head of the WHO drug dependence programme, Dr Awni Arif, and the WHO consultant for the course, Professor Joseph Westermeyer, will attend some of the sessions."

The chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Sir Albert Rodrigues, will open the training course at the Legislative Council Chamber.

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr K. L. Thong, will officiate at the closing on November 28.

Mr Lee said the fact that Hongkong is organising the course indicates that the WHO recognises the achievements made here in addict treatment and rehabilitation.

The training course aims at providing an in-depth study of the latest anti-narcotics treatment and rehabilitation policies and methods.

Topics will include the medical, behavioural and social treatment of drug dependence, family and community interventions, preventive education, legislation and training skills.

Mr Lee said: "Participants will have the opportunity to take a first-hand look at the organisation and management of Hongkong's multimodality treatment and rehabilitation programmes and to discuss them with the heads of departments and staff of the institutions concerned.

"The training course will be our contribution to the worldwide campaign against drug abuse and we hope it will lead to a stimulating exchange of views and ideas between Hongkong experts and those of the countries participating in the course."

Mr Lee said it appears that Hongkong is containing



Mr Lee

its drug abuse problem and preventing young people from experimenting with drugs.

"Successes in anti-narcotics law enforcement by the Royal Hongkong Police Force and the customs and excise service have kept the street prices of drugs at an all-time high and it now costs an addict \$150-250 a day to satisfy his addiction.

"This effectively prices most addicts out of the market, and is a powerful inducement to them to seek treatment.

"The number of addicts attending treatment facilities and on after-care daily has never been greater, and sustained preventive education and publicity programmes have helped to reduce the number of new recruits to drug abuse."

Hongkong has an estimated 35,000 to 50,000 drug addicts. Less than four per cent are under 20.

#### Asian Doctors Join In

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 31 Oct 79 p 16

[Text]

Drug addicts spend about \$450 million a year on their habit, the chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Sir Albert Rodrigues, said yesterday.

And the Government spends about \$182 million annually to fight narcotics trafficking and abuse, he added.

This includes the annual cost of law enforcement, treatment, after-care and preventive education.

Sir Albert was speaking at the opening of the World Health Organisation's first inter-regional course for doctors on the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts.

The 20 doctors attending the course are from Egypt, Afghanistan, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Referring to the millions of dollars exchanged by pushers and addicts, Sir Albert said:

"No community can remain indifferent to a financial drain of this magnitude, but it is the potential for social disruption which causes us most concern.

"The implications are obviously shocking, but we see no virtue in concealing the realities, either from ourselves or from others."

He said the number of Hongkong addicts in the 20 to 30 age group was disturbing. He estimated that there were 16,250 of them, or 32.5 per cent of the total.

The total is in the range of 35,000 to 50,000, "the vast majority of whom are males in the lower income groups whose drug of abuse is fume-inhaled heroin, although the use of intravenous injections has increased rapidly."

There is a degree of consolation, however, from indications that the problem "appears to be contained, as exemplified by the dramatically diminishing numbers of young addicts and the equally dramatically increasing numbers of those under care."

He said 64 per cent of Hongkong's addicts are over 30 years old and 3.7 per cent are under 20.

The anti-narcotics fight is deliberately flexible and the various bodies involved coordinate their efforts, Sir Albert said.

"Cost-effectiveness is our guideline and we see this as a responsibility not only to the community in general, but to the taxpayer, the field worker and to the patients themselves."

The Action Committee Against Narcotics was the sole channel of advice to the Government on all aspects of anti-narcotics work here.



Dr Kesamesanta

The Government's high-level support to "well-designed and considered policy proposals, backed up by an effective system of monitoring, assessing and evaluating the results of all programmes" is necessary to any effective anti-narcotics effort.

"We are committed to international co-operation with all those countries with problems similar to our own and who have a common interest in suppressing this evil trade."



The WHO training course continues until November 28.

One of the representatives from Thailand is Dr M. R. Susomborn Kasamesanta, who is in charge of the Department of Medical Service at Bangkok's Thanyarat Hospital.

The 450 beds allotted by the hospital for addicts are always occupied, he said.

"In 1958 there were about 70,000 addicts in Thailand, but today there are 500,000," he said.

"Most are labourers and their average age is 40 to 50 years old."

It is still easy to buy drugs in Thailand despite Government programmes of crop substitution for opium that used to be grown in the north.

Drugs continue to come from the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos meet.

Most of the drugs arriving here come from the Golden Triangle.

Treatment at Dr Kasamesanta's hospital is a long one.

Rehabilitation takes up to six months and includes individual and group therapy.

The detoxification period is 45 days and methadone and

tranquillisers are used to help patients.

After the opening speech by Sir Albert and a tea break, the first session of the training programme began.

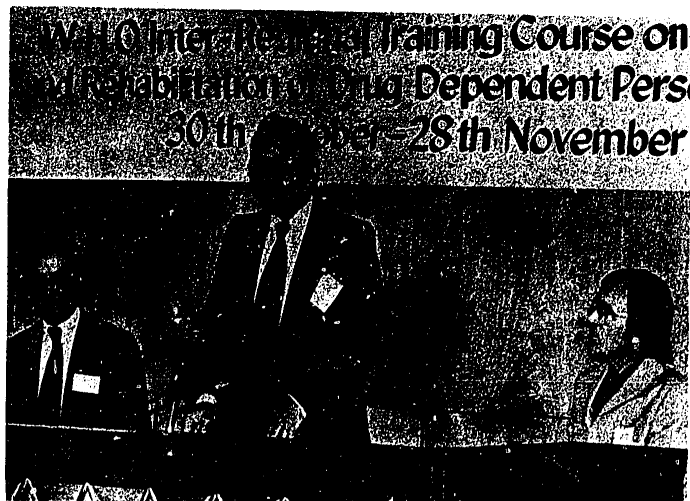
It was a 1½-hour talk by the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, on the subject: "An overview of the drug problem and of anti-narcotics policies and programmes in Hongkong."

The press was excluded from Mr Lee's talk, as it will be from future sessions, said a spokesman for the Narcotics Division of the Secretariat.

Hongkong experts will be speaking at some of these meetings, such as today's on the goals of treatment for addicts.

The senior medical social worker for the Medical and Health Department, Mr K.S. Ma, and the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers chief social service co-ordinator, Mr William Tang, will take part in today's session.

Other topics will cover the diseases which afflict local drug addicts and female drug addiction.



Sir Albert (centre) addressing the meeting. With him are the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee (left), and a WHO consultant, Dr Joseph Westermeyer.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

HONG KONG CONNECTION PROBED IN MURDER RING

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Nov 79 p 1

[Article by Kevin Sinclair]

[Text]

Narcotics Bureau detectives have asked police in Britain and New Zealand for details on Hongkong links in an international drugs and murder ring being investigated on three continents.

A New Zealander, whose mutilated body was found in a disused gravel pit in Britain, may have had local connections.

Investigations yesterday showed that the murdered man, Christopher "Marty" Johnston (35), also known in New Zealand as "Mr Asia" because of his reputed Asian drug connections, was a director of at least one Hongkong registered company.

Through this company he also had links with a number of other businesses registered both here and in Singapore.

Some of his partners listed in public records include a man with dual New Zealand-Greek citizenship who lives in Singapore and a number of Singapore Chinese.

Police in Hongkong, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Britain had been investigating Johnston's af-

fairs for more than a year before he died.

Reliable sources said an interlocking number of "front" businesses had been established in Asia over a period of several years.

At first a small number of New Zealand drug-runners concentrated on smuggling marijuana into the country.

But as they gained expertise and capital, they expanded their business, the sources said.

The New Zealanders moved into the Australian market smuggling both marijuana and heroin.

Then they shifted their activities to the lucrative European market transshipping consignments of drugs from Southeast Asia to Australia and New Zealand and then on to Britain or other European countries.

This round-about route for the drug shipments was taken because until recently customs officials in Europe regarded the two South Pacific countries as being "clean" as far as drug exports were concerned.

● In Chorley, England,

nine people including three New Zealanders appeared in court yesterday on murder and drug charges in connection with Johnston's death.

Johnston's body was found in a flooded quarry near Chorley three weeks ago.

According to a Reuter report Johnston is believed to have been killed in a smuggling racket power struggle that has been connected to other murders in Australia.

Among five people charged with murder and conspiracy to murder is New Zealander Alexander James Sinclair (34), now living in London.

Two other New Zealanders are among four people accused of drug offences.

They are Errol John Hincksman (31) and a barrister, Karen Mary Marie Soich, both living in London.

The others charged are British.

All nine were remanded in custody until Thursday.

Police, who said they feared for the safety of anyone involved in the case, mounted tight security for the court appearance.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

## DRUGS INFORMANT GETS THREE YEARS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 7 Nov 79 p 14

[Text]

A 22-year-old man who gave information to customs officers which subsequently led to his own arrest was sentenced to three years' imprisonment yesterday for possessing \$1 million worth of dangerous drugs.

Chan Kam-ming, formerly employed at a money-lending firm, pleaded guilty before Mr Justice Baber in the High Court to possessing 8,233.93 grams of heroin mixture for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

Crown counsel Eric Martin said that on June 8, a party of customs officers, acting on information, went to a flat in Yaumati where they found the heroin mixture together with packing materials.

The principal tenant of the flat, Yeung She-wong, was arrested and charged with possessing dangerous drugs.

During committal proceedings against Yeung in August, Chan came forward as a witness.

He said the drugs belonged to him, that he had rented Yeung's flat to store them and that Yeung was innocent.

The Crown entered a nolle prosequi against Yeung while Chan was charged instead.

Mr Martin said that under

caution Chan told the officers that in May he met one Ho Pak in the vicinity of Yaumati fruit market.

Ho gave him \$3,000 and asked him to rent an apartment to store heroin.

Ho also promised him \$2,000 a month for looking after the drugs.

On May 13 Ho left him a briefcase and a travelling bag containing the heroin, saying he was leaving for Thailand but would return on June 1.

Chan said he rented Yeung's flat at \$1,600 a month.

Yeung was his colleague at the money-lending firm.

Chan said that when he failed to find Ho after June 1, he became suspicious that Ho had deserted him.

He telephoned the Customs Service on June 7, informing them of the drugs.

However, on June 9 he learned that Yeung had been arrested.

He then quit his job at the money-lending firm and went into hiding.

But on August 17 he sought advice from his solicitors and turned up at Yeung's

committal hearing as a witness.

Mr Martin said the value of the dangerous drugs at the time of the seizure was \$1 million but the value today was \$3 million.

Chan had previous convictions for robbery, theft and dangerous drugs.

Defence counsel Mr John Bleach asked the court not to impose the normal type of sentence for this was a totally different case from the usual drug offences.

Chan's act of volunteering information to the Customs Service was in stark contrast to his previous convictions.

He supplied the information leading to the recovery of the drugs, knowing he might have to face many years in prison.

Passing sentence Mr Justice Baber said if Chan had been convicted in the normal circumstances, the type of sentence he could expect would be eight or nine years.

But the judge said the facts of the case were somewhat unusual and he proposed to give Chan very substantial credit regarding the mitigating factors in the case.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DRUGS MAN LOSES APPEAL

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 10 Nov 79 p 8

[Text]

A 30-year-old man maintained before the Court of Appeal yesterday that the dangerous drugs which he was convicted of possessing had been planted on him by the police.

Tse Kwok-yuen first made the allegation when he was being tried in the District Court earlier this year.

The trial judge adjourned the hearing for the Independent Commission Against Corruption to investigate his complaint.

However, when Tse was interviewed by ICAC officers, he retracted the allegation, saying it was false.

Tse explained to the Court of Appeal yesterday that he was forced to retract the allegation for fear that the lives of his wife and children would be jeopardised.

Asked by Mr Justice

Leonard if he still had that fear by maintaining the allegation, Tse said he did not now know his family's whereabouts.

Tse was sentenced to 3½ years' imprisonment in August after the trial judge found him guilty of possessing 964 grams of a mixture of salts of heroin and morphine.

The drugs were worth \$80,000 then.

It was stated at the trial that police, acting on information, went to a flat in Kowloon Walled City on December 13 last year.

But before they gained entry, a packet was thrown out of the window.

The packet, which contained dangerous drugs, landed on the awning of a lower floor.

Dismissing Tse's appeal against conviction, Mr Justice

Leonard said the circumstances of the case and the evidence pointed to the fact that Tse was the man who threw out the packet from the flat.

Sitting with Mr Justice Leonard were the Chief Justice, Sir Denys Roberts, and Mr Justice Huggins.

Senior Crown counsel Peter Duncan appeared for the Crown.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

MA BROTHER ASSOCIATES WIN APPEAL

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Oct 79 p 11

[Text]

Three men, serving prison terms ranging from eight to 15 years for conspiracy to traffic in dangerous drugs, succeeded in their appeals against conviction.

They were Yu Yuk-kwong (58), Chan Kai-yin (38) and Lee Fai (46).

All three were alleged at their trial to have been linked with a dangerous drugs syndicate headed by former newspaper publisher Ma Sik-chun and his brother, Ma Sik-yu.

The Court of Appeal adjourned for three hours before delivering its judgment. It will give its reasons at a later date.

Yu and Chan were each sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and Lee to eight years in November last year.

They were found guilty by a jury of conspiracy to traffic in salts of morphine between January 17, 1969, and June 1972.

Yu had been described by the Crown as a sort of porter for the syndicate by helping to bring dangerous drugs into Hongkong, while Chan was said to be the paymaster.

Lee was alleged to be the strong-arm man in the syndicate.

For six days the Court of Appeal heard submissions by appellants' counsel against the unsafe and unsatisfactory state of the conviction.

The credibility of an accomplice who turned Crown witness, Li Ting-zee, formed one of the main grounds of appeal.

Police began investigating the case in April 1976 when Li, a former seaman who was arrested for an immigration offence, gave them certain information.

It had been submitted by counsel for the appellants that there were material discrepancies between Li's statement to the police and the evidence he gave in court.

His identification of the appellants' involvement in the operation was also unsatisfactory, it was claimed.

The appellants were among nine defendants originally charged in connection with the alleged syndicate.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

FIVE JAILED FOR MANUFACTURING DRUGS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 17 Nov 79 p 7

[Text]

Three men and two women were sentenced to jail terms of five to nine years in the High Court yesterday for manufacturing dangerous drugs in a Shamshuipo flat.

After deliberating for 3½ hours a jury returned guilty verdicts against Wong King-mo (33), Chan Wing (36), Lee Wan (40) and two women, Law Mei-ling (20) and Wong Sam-nui (28).

Mr Justice Addison sentenced Wong to 8½ years, Chan and Lee nine years each and the women five years each.

The court was told that on January 17 police kept watch on the top floor of a building in Nam Cheong Street.

They waited until midnight but saw no one coming out of the flat.

At one stage police cut off the electricity and water sup-

ply to the flat but still nothing happened.

Eventually the police knocked on the door but there was no response.

At this time a man was seen climbing out of a window.

When a police officer shone a torch on him, the man got back into the flat.

The police forced open the door and found the defendants inside.

There was a strong acidic smell and police found a quantity of dangerous drugs some of which were in the process of being manufactured.

Mr Ruy Barretto defended Wong, Chan and the woman, Wong Sam-nui.

The two others were defended by Anthony Sedgwick. Senior Crown counsel Max Lucas prosecuted.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

EX-SEAMAN CAUGHT WITH HEROIN

Seen On TV Screen

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 31 Oct 79 p 15

[Text] Police summoned to an apartment building in Quarry Bay by the building's caretaker found three men with a suitcase containing 314.35 grams of heroin, the High Court was told yesterday.

The drug had a wholesale value of \$229,000.

Former seaman Tam Kwei-hung (34) is on trial before Mr Commissioner Bewley and a jury on a charge of possession of drugs for unlawful trafficking.

The caretaker of the apartment building, Mr Tang Chi-wing, said that in the early hours of 29 May, he was sitting in his office on the ground floor looking at a closed circuit television screen.

The screen showed in turn the interiors of the four lifts and the two entrances to the building.

While he was looking at the screen he saw three men carrying two suitcases enter a lift.

One of them was fat, another wore a yellow safari suit and the third wore a European suit and spectacles.

He saw the fat man come out of the lift on the ground floor and walk out of the door.

Mr Tang said he pretended to be looking at light switches in the lobby and looked out of the door.

He saw a police vehicle parked in the driveway.

The fat man came back into the building and took a lift up.

Mr Tang said he went to the police vehicle and told two constables inside that he had seen three men acting in a furtive manner.

He also told them he suspected that the three were carrying stolen goods.

He and the two constables took a lift to the second floor and found the two suitcases outside the lift door.

They then returned to the ground floor with the suitcases.

On the ground floor they found the man in the European suit and the one wearing a safari suit.

Both men were searched and some keys were found on the man in the safari suit.

With one of the keys one suitcase was opened. The other suitcase was not locked.

Pc Cheng Wai-huong said he was one of the policemen who was approached by the caretaker.

He identified Tam as the young man in a yellow safari suit who was found with another man on the ground floor of the building.

He said that when asked why he was in the building, Tam replied he had come to look for his friend, Lau Chi-wan, who lived on the 18th floor.

Police then took the two men up to the 18th floor to the flat pointed out by Tam, but no one called Lau lived there.

Pc Lau Kan-on told the court that Tam denied that the suitcases belonged to him.

One suitcase was found to contain a quantity of white powder in polyethene bags and the other various pieces of equipment.

The trial continues today.

Crown counsel Kim Longley prosecutes.

Mr Frankie Leung defends.

#### Seven Years For Heroin

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Nov 79 p 14

[Excerpts]

A former seaman was sent to prison for seven years yesterday for possessing heroin for trafficking.

Tam Kwei-hung (34) was sentenced by Mr. Commissioner Bewley in the High

Court after a jury found him guilty.

"I have a duty to the public to pass a deterrent sentence on persons found in possession of such a large quantity of heroin.

"You were well aware of the risks involved," the judge told Tam.

Mr Frankie Leung for the defence pointed out that Tam had a clear record and said he played only a small part in the transaction.

CSO: 5300



NEW ZEALAND

**SUPREME COURT SENTENCES HEROIN IMPORTER TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Oct 79 Sec 1, p 4

[Text]

**Self-employed property developer Brian James Curtis, aged 46, was sentenced in the Supreme Court at Auckland yesterday to life imprisonment for importing heroin with an estimated street value of \$1 million.**

It is the heaviest sentence imposed since Parliament increased the maximum penalty for importing heroin from 14 years to life last year.

Passing sentence the judge, Mr Justice McMullin, told Curtis that his crime could "only be described as enormous."

Curtis was found guilty by a jury early this month of importing heroin into New Zealand.

The judge said that Curtis' conviction followed evidence from witnesses from a number of countries where the police had been led in their inquiries.

**Police Praised**

Praising the police, he said their patient research into the matter had resulted in the presentation of a well-documented case.

Curtis, said the judge, had gone about the business of importing drugs in the fashion of an entrepreneur.

He had bought a yacht for \$55,000, paid a substantial deposit, and undertook to pay the balance on a date by which the money from the sale of drugs would be available.

Curtis had hired a crew of people who would not be likely to question his activities. One was a navigator from Tonga who returned home at the end of the journey.

A young man who had little knowledge of sailing but who was a drug addict helped in the plan, and his girlfriend completed the crew.

**Repulsive**

Noting that Curtis had told his probation officer that he found drug trafficking repulsive and had warned his children against using drugs, Mr Justice McMullin told the accused:

"You were prepared to bring heroin to this country for financial gain and you didn't show much concern for the fate of the children of other people."

The judge said that in January, a kilogram of heroin which was 10 per cent pure was worth \$1 million retail. There was evidence to suggest Curtis had imported two or three kilos of the drug.

Mr Justice McMullin said he could not do better than quote a probation officer who

said in 1974 that Curtis was "self-assured and industrious, ambitious to succeed financially without questioning the ethics of the means he employs to gain his ends."

**Smart Deal**

The probation officer had said that Curtis had always provided well for his family but his weaknesses were past associates and a "smart deal."

Commenting on deterrent sentences, the judge noted that in 1978 Parliament had increased the maximum sentence for importing heroin from 14 years to life imprisonment.

"I don't know your place on the drug scene but it must be high," the judge told Curtis.

"Without your initiative, organisation, and money, the accomplices who gave evidence against you could not have been used to such advantage," he said.

"Whether or not you are at the top of the tree, you must be among the highest branches," said the judge.

Counsel for Curtis, Mr R. S. Walker, submitted that a finite term of imprisonment should be imposed. Curtis, he

said, still denied his involvement with the offence.

Curtis believed that if it had not been for three witnesses deemed to be accomplices he would not be in court. There were some contradictions in the evidence.

Some of the evidence was almost devoid of solid corroboration, said Mr Walker.

The jury's verdict had not defined the quantity of heroin found. Although there was evidence that two or three kilograms of heroin were imported, only half a kilogram was found.

#### **Not 'Mr Big'**

Curtis had no previous convictions for dealing in drugs.

The accused, he said, had a "relative non-association" with drug dealers and drug users. He should not be regarded as a "Mr Big" of the drug world. The offence should be viewed as an isolated one.

Appearing for the Crown, Mr E. Winkel told the court that a penalty "in the higher range of sentences available" should be imposed.

"It would be hard to imagine a more serious case of importing heroin," he said.

The sentence should reflect the views of society and be a deterrent, said Mr Winkel.

Outside the court, Mr Walker said he had been instructed to appeal against conviction and sentence.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

EDITORIAL BACKS LIFE SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKING IN HARD DRUGS

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Oct 79 Sec 1, p 6

[Editorial: "Maximum Drug Penalty"]

[Text] The Government last year mirrored public opinion by increasing to life imprisonment the sentence for trafficking in "hard" A category drugs. A life sentence imposed in the Supreme Court yesterday on a man convicted of such an offence will be seen as recognition by the Bench, also, that the public favours--even expects--harsh penalties.

Without commenting on the particular case, which may be subject to appeal, there can be no doubt that the community endorses the legislative line taken to deal with an area of crime which has an increasingly deleterious effect on society. If harsh laws are on the statute books, they are there to be exercised.

The severity of a life sentence will make people sit up and take notice of the consequences of dealing in such drugs as heroin. No doubt the hope is that the greatest impact will be on those involved in the drug trade.

Countries such as Singapore and Thailand impose--and carry out--the death sentence for "hard" drug trafficking and, while the ultimate penalty has not stopped all people from taking a terrible risk, it has undoubtedly stemmed the tide. The use of maximum sentences in appropriate cases is probably the only way to make would-be traffickers think twice before embarking on a nefarious business.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

EDITORIAL NOTES INCREASING DRUG MENACE

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 5 Nov 79 p 2

[Editorial: "Drug Lesson Is Underlined"]

[Text]

NEW ZEALAND'S sinister links with big-scale international drug trafficking are unfolding with increasing sordidness.

The finding of the handless corpse of a New Zealand man at the bottom of a flooded quarry in Lancashire has been followed by a crop of arrests in Britain, with New Zealanders among those detained.

The dead man has been revealed as the notorious Mr Asia, the mastermind behind a huge drug ring operating between South-east Asia, Australia and New Zealand. His death is believed to be the result of power play within the syndicate, and it has precipitated the uncovering of, at least, some of those behind the accelerating drug problem in this part of the world.

There have been cries for more intensive police action to winkle out the "Mr Bigs" of the drug world and some impatience in the community over the fact that it was the comparatively minor fish that were being netted. Recent developments have shown the police were getting nearer the top echelon of this filthy enterprise, and there have been Court proceedings to prove it.

But, macabre and tragic as the circumstances of the quarry discovery may be, the police have now been given their best opportunity yet to crack the drug ring, and it has come about through the old pattern of thieves

falling out and being consumed by greed.

New Zealand has been thrust into the limelight by the new events and the country's reputation suffers as a result of it.

It is sobering to recall that only a few short years ago it was a rare occurrence for anyone to appear in court in this country on even the most modest of drug charges. Today the procession of drug prosecutions has become commonplace, and it is an awful warning to the community in general.

As with so many contemporary evils, New Zealand was one of the last places to be affected. But, in a rapid space of time, novices have become barons and are not only ruining lives in their own country but are bringing their evil trade to other countries as well.

The Mr Asia horror story is a salutary warning to young people who are tempted to have their first experimentation with drugs -- to be "in the swim" as it were.

The transition of drug-sampler to operator is now an all too familiar scenario.

New Zealand is in at the deep end, and it is to be very much hoped that the dramatically unexpected events in England may lead to a dramatic turn of the tide for our, so far, not very successful battle to defeat the surging drug menace.

CSO: 5320

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

GUANGZHOU DEPORTS DRUG PEDDLERS--The public security organs have detained and fined 30 criminals who came from Hong Kong and Macao to Guangzhou to peddle and take drugs, practice extortion, fight, smuggle and act in hooliganish ways. They deported 17 of them, 7 of whom were drug peddlers and addicts. All 30 arrived in Guangzhou in the past 2 months, bringing drugs and other items with them. They were detained for periods ranging from 10 to 15 days and fined amounts varying from 30,000 to 50,000 yuan. The 17 deportees were escorted to Shenzhen on 13 November. [Guangzhou Guangdong Provincial Service in Mandarin 1130 GMT 13 Nov 79 HK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

SIRI SIRIKUN CAPTURED, PLACED IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Details of Capture

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 27 Sep 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] The "Heroin King" who escaped from prison using a counterfeit court order has been cornered in Malaysia on grounds that he entered that country on a false passport. The [Thai] minister of the interior ordered his immediate extradition and return to confinement, while the [Thai] prime minister directed that he not be allowed to get away a second time.

Yesterday evening (26 September), Colonel Uthan Sanitwong Na Ayuthaya, spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office, disclosed to BAN MUANG and other members of the press that official reports from Malaysia passed to the Thai Foreign Ministry stated that Siri Sirikun, the "Heroin King," had been arrested. Sirikun, sentenced by a Thai court to life imprisonment, used a counterfeit court order in a sensational escape during the appeal of his case. Then, in June of this year Malaysian authorities brought charges of illegal entry against him on the grounds that he had used a forged passport to enter that country clandestinely. When Thailand requested his extradition in accordance with law and Thai-Malaysian agreements, Malaysia notified Thailand to send officials to take custody of the prisoner.

Colonel Sanitwong further stated that once the Foreign Ministry had received the report of capture, word was sent to General Lek Naeomali, Minister of the Interior, who on the afternoon of 26 September ordered Police Major General Phao Sarasin, Secretary of the Narcotics Suppression Center, to go pick up Sirikun in Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital. Colonel Sanitwong emphasized in conclusion, "I have informed the Prime Minister, who directed that we proceed according to law, and ordered that under no circumstances should we permit another escape."

Siri Sirikun, "Heroin King" on a global scale, was arrested by Thai police in 1976 on charges of possession and sale of narcotics. Sentenced to life imprisonment by the primary court, Sirikun appealed. But while his appeal was pending, someone used a counterfeit court order to obtain his release from the Bang Khwang Prison at approximately 2100 hours on 30 June 1977 and spirited him away. Almost two full years elapsed before the escape

became known to the public in June 1979. When newspapers published the story, Mr Pratheung Kiratibut, Deputy Minister of the Interior at the time, appointed a commission to determine who had issued the false court order. Mr Chamrun Piyamputra, an assistant deputy to the Minister of the Interior, was named to head the commission, while Police Lieutenant General Chamrat Mangkharat, Inspector with the Ministry of the Interior, and Police Lieutenant General Kiti Seribut were appointed to serve with him.

Later, this commission ordered the arrest and prosecution of Mr Wochira Aransen and Mr Bunsri Phonsaeng, guards at the prison. Mr Ponsaeng was named as the person who actually used the counterfeit document to obtain Sirikun's release from the Bang Khwang Central Prison. Both men were arrested at 0225 hours on 15 June 1979. Then at 1500 hours on 21 June, Mr Han Phansombun, director of the Division of Penology of the Corrections Department, was arrested following discovery of evidence that he, too, was involved in the "Heroin King's" release, since at that time he was warden of the Bang Khwang Central Prison.

#### International Aspects of the Case

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 28 Sep 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] Once imprisoned, the "Heroin King" escaped jail with a forged court order. When Malaysian authorities seized him in his quarters, he was carrying a forged passport with a false name. The Corrections Department is prepared to receive him with extensive measures to guard against assassination attempts by those who fear implication in the escape. At the same time, German police requested his extradition for sale of narcotics in that country as well.

After Siri Sirikun, the "World Heroin King," began serving his life sentence at the Bang Khwang Prison, he spent some 10 million baht to obtain a forged release order and remained at large for an extended period. This led to the imprisonment of Mr Han Phansombun, former warden of the Bang Khwang Prison, when evidence was found implicating him in the forgery and escape. In the end, however, Siri Sirikun failed to make good his escape, and was arrested by Malaysian authorities on charges of using a forged passport.

Captured at Home, Alias "Pricha"

As the case unfolded, an Associated Press report stated that Sirikun was arrested on 25 September 1979 in the house where he was residing in the town of Butterworth. Malaysian authorities confiscated a forged passport and an identity card from him bearing the name "Pricha." Sirikun had been in hiding at that location for the preceding 2 to 3 months after escaping from Barg Khwang using the false papers.

Narcotics Center General Flies to View the Suspect

It was further reported that after Malaysian officials informed the Secretary of the Narcotics Suppression Center that Sirikun had been cornered,

Police Major General Phao Sarasin, the Secretary, flew immediately on Wednesday (26 September) night to ask to see the prisoner. While traveling, General Sarasin was made aware of the German request for extradition, which charged that Sirikun transported 68 kilograms of heroin into that country.

#### Positively Identified

General Sarasin returned at 1630 hours on 27 September. He disclosed to reporters that he had not actually seen the prisoner, who was using the alias "Pricha." Inspection of fingerprints, however, determined that it was indeed Sirikun. Police Major General Chak Laksanabunsong, Deputy Commander of the Central Investigation Bureau, and Police Major Wirat Chutimit were dispatched to Penang to return the fugitive to Thailand. Sirikun was expected to arrive here this morning or early afternoon.

#### Bang Khwang Prepares to Take Custody

Mr Wichit Thongkham, Assistant Director of the Corrections Department, serving in the absence of the director, informed BAN MUANG yesterday morning (27 September) that Sirikun's life sentence was under appeal at the time of his escape, and that his recapture will do much to resolve the case. He stated also that upon Sirikun's return to custody, the Corrections Department will have to keep him under strictest security. Thongkham believes that there will be further appeals in the case, in view of the harshness of the sentence. In any event, the Corrections Department is making thorough preparations for the prisoner's return, with another inspection of the Bang Khwang Prison in Nontaburi Province. In addition, there remains the case of Mr Han Phansombun, former warden of the prison, whose case is now being prosecuted. It is believed that Siri Sirikun's return will facilitate resolution of this case as well.

#### Protective Measures Taken

When asked what measures were being taken to prevent the possible assassination of Sirikun, since he is the key to the mystery surrounding his escape, the Deputy Director of the Corrections Department replied that strict measures would be taken. Since Sirikun is recognized as the most important source of information in the case, it will be necessary to hold him under strictest security. Therefore the Department will have to incarcerate him again elsewhere.

#### Request for Extradition

Police Lieutenant General Narong Mahanon, Deputy Director-General of the Police Department, yesterday (27 September) disclosed at Parliament that Sirikun's original sentence would remain in effect, while the escape and forgery charges would constitute separate offenses and would be treated separately.

Police General Chumpon Lohachala, Vice Minister of the Interior, stated that once the fugitive had been positively identified and returned to Thai



custody, an investigation would be conducted to determine how the escape occurred and to identify any persons who aided him or cooperated with him.

Mr Pratheuang Kiratibut, Vice Minister of the Interior, is of the opinion that consideration should be given to increasing the sentence, but that whatever is done will have to await extradition and due process of law.

Police Major General Suraphon Chunlaprom, Deputy Director General of the Police Department, said that Sirikun's capture is a result of [Thailand's] attending the International Police Conference in Kenya. There our representatives met with Malaysian police and requested their cooperation in apprehending the international narcotics dealer, for it was already known at that time that he was in hiding in Malaysia. It was after this meeting that he was arrested.

#### Charged With Jailbreak

On the afternoon of that same day (27 September), it was revealed to reporters by Mr Sanguan Sitichai, Chief Justice of the Criminal Courts, that Sirikun would definitely be charged with escaping from prison. However, whether he would be charged with forgery of the court order that freed him would depend on the results of the ongoing police investigation on whether he bribed someone.

#### Search for the Forger

As he departed a session of Parliament at 1215 hours on 27 September, General Monchai Phankhongcheun Director-General of the Police Department answered reporters' questions regarding the capture of Siri Sirikun. He said that the report had come to him through Police Major General Chawalit Yotmani, head of the police foreign affairs unit, at 0900 hours yesterday (26 September) between sessions of the legislature. General Yotmai had been informed by Police Major General Dato Abdul Rahman Ismail, Commander of the Malaysian Police Central Investigation or head of the Malaysian Police International Affairs. General Phankhongcheun then informed General Lek Naeomali, Minister of the Interior, who named Police Major General Phao Sarasin, Secretary of the Narcotics Suppression Center, to go escort the Heroin King back to face prosecution in Thailand.

He stated further that General Sarasin had traveled to Malaysia and was arranging with police there for return of the fugitive; he was to report as soon as a date and time had been set. General Phankhongcheun also ordered Police Major General Sanguan Khlongchai, commander of the Suppression Unit, to investigate the forgery of the court order to find out who was involved, so that the law could be carried out.

#### Protective Measures Taken

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 29 Sep 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Heroin King reveals his story; more than 500,000 baht spent for the release order and escape from prison; 2,000 Malaysian dollars more for

a passport. But the Heroin King still refuses to name those who aided in the escape, or to state whether or not they wear the country's uniform. He is now in the custody of the Suppression Command, and is being held in solitary confinement with no visitors permitted and bail absolutely denied.

Siri Sirikun is the "Global Heroin King" who escaped from the Bang Khwang Prison using a forged release order and fled to Malaysia only to be cornered by police there. In Malaysia he used false identity documents with the alias "Pricha," and lived in a house in the Butterworth section of Penang. Sirikun's escape resulted in the investigation and subsequent arrest of Mr Han Phansombun, former warden of the Bang Khwang Prison, as reported earlier by BAN MUANG.

In further developments, it was reported yesterday (28 September) morning that Police Major General Chak Laksanabunsong, assistant commander of the Central Investigation Bureau, who went to take custody of Sirikun, was scheduled to arrive back at Don Muang Airport on the morning of 28 September. Don Muang was consequently under heavy guard.

Journalists at the scene have filed reports periodically. At 0830 hours on 28 September, Police Major General Phao Sarasin, Secretary of the Narcotics Suppression Center, arrived to oversee Sirikun's arrival. Later, Police Lieutenant General Kiti Seribut, commander of the Central Investigation Bureau, arrived and immediately went to wait in the incoming passenger lounge. At the same time, Police Colonel Prathin Santiprapop, Deputy Commander of the Samyod Suppression Unit, brought in a force of not less than 70 uniformed and plainclothes officers and posted them all around the airport to prevent any violence against the suspect, or any attempts to wrest him from police control.

At 0940 hours Thai Airways flight T.G.408 arrived from Penang. As soon as the aircraft parked on the runway apron, it was surrounded by police. As Sirikun exited the reception area, he was dressed in a white, flower-print shirt, gray trousers, and sandals. He had a heavy growth of beard and he smiled continually. He was handcuffed to a policeman on each side and escorted by guards on all sides. Sirikun was led to a waiting van, license 1 0 9480, and driven immediately to the Police Department. Police radio cars led and followed the seven-vehicle convoy.

At 1015 hours the convoy reached the Police Department, where Police General Monchai Phankhongcheun, Director-general of the Police Department, was to begin the inquiry personally. There was some confusion at this point, because the General was delayed at a meeting at the Ministry of the Interior. Police Lieutenant General Kiti Seribut, Commander of the Central Investigation Bureau, then escorted Sirikun to wait outside the director-general's offices. At that time Sirikun made a short statement, saying that he had "been in Malaysia for several months, and in fact wanted to return to Thailand, since I am Thai."

Mr Praheuang Kiratibut, Assistant Minister of the Interior, gave a statement to reporters at the Ministry this morning (28 September) concerning the return of Siri Sirikun, the "Heroin King," from Malaysia. He said that immediately upon arrival at Bangkok, Sirikun would be turned over to the Corrections Department to be held in the Bangkok Special Confinement Facility to preclude the possibility of assassination. A high degree of security was to be maintained, and it was forbidden to return the prisoner to Bang Khwang. It was also expressly forbidden to permit Sirikun to meet with Mr Han Phansombun, former warden of the Bang Khwang facility, in order that the investigation not be hindered.

The Assistant Minister of the Interior disclosed that he had ordered Mr Chamrun Piyanputra, Assistant Deputy to the Minister of the Interior and chairman of the investigative commission, and Police Lieutenant General Kiti Seribut, chairman of the criminal investigation commission, to discard all their previous findings and begin their investigation again. "We now have the evidence. There remains only to hear the testimony of Mr Siri Sirikun to make everything clear," Mr Kiratibut stated.

He further disclosed that Sirikun's arrest came after police determined that he had indeed gone to Malaysia. A request was made for assistance in capturing the Heroin King, and at last he was arrested. In conclusion, Mr Kiratibut stated that it was noteworthy that after Siri Sirikun fled to Malaysia, all the heroin traffic in Thailand gravitated to the south. The drug was being transported into Malaysia for further shipment. This clearly demonstrates the extent of Sirikun's involvement with the narcotics organization.

At 1250 hours, General Monchai Phankhongcheun arrived to investigate personally. Sirikun answered his questions with a smile, stating that he had paid 200,000 baht to obtain the forged release order. The escape was made about 2000 hours, and when it was accomplished he paid an additional 300,000 baht. He remained at home for two or three nights, then boarded a tour bus to Hat Yai, where he stayed for 6 to 7 months. Then, having paid 2,000 Malaysian dollars for a false passport, he crossed into Malaysia and rented a house at Butterworth for 50 Malaysian dollars per month. There, he said, he engaged in small-scale trade.

General Phankhongcheun told reporters that during the interview he informed Sirikun that he was still under sentence of the criminal court, and that the police would have to hold him as a suspect. He then asked Sirikun if he were afraid to re-enter prison; Sirikun answered that he was indeed afraid.

As to the identity of the person who made the false court order, Mr Sirikun stated that he could not [now] say, and that this information would be disclosed to the police only during their investigation. Reporters queried whether the person in question was in uniform or not. The Heroin King said no, that it was an outsider. Sirikun was then escorted to the Central Investigation Bureau, where the public was excluded.

Following several hours of questioning, Sirikun was taken by eight officers to the Suppression Unit to be held for prosecution on the charges of fleeing confinement while awaiting judgment of the court, and of supporting the corruption of government officials. He was to be placed in solitary confinement, but there were two prisoners already in the cell. No visitors were permitted, bail was denied, and a heavy guard was posted.

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THAILAND

OPIUM, HEROIN SEIZED IN BANGKOK

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 12 Sep 79 pp 1, 12

[Text] Heroin and opium worth 15 million baht seized in inner city, suspects admit making many shipments for sale in Europe.

At approximately 1230 hours officers of the Police Department's Narcotics Suppression Center arrested three drug traffickers. They are Mr Thatsanai Thatsanapremsing, 46, his wife, Walaiphon Thatsanapremsing, both of 1703 Lat Prao Road, Lat Prao District, and Mr Wichai Saelim, of 11/15 Lat Prao Road, Bang Thong Luang District, Bang Kapi. The first two suspects were arrested in the vicinity of Khlang Montri Lane, Prachachuen Road, Bang Su District, in the Dusit area.

Police investigation established that the two regularly supplied narcotics for the European market, so their behavior was watched constantly. They were apprehended and searched while riding in a Gallant Sigma automobile, license number 5 K 0128.

Searching the automobile, police officers discovered 10 packages of opium and 8 packages of heroin, which led to the suspects' confession. The suspects also led police to the home of Mr Saelim, where a search revealed an additional 7.5 kilograms of heroin and 7 kilograms of opium left with Saelim by the Thatsanapremsing couple. Altogether, the captured drugs have a value of 15 million baht on the European market. Police officers took all three suspects into custody pending prosecution.



Opium and heroin worth 15 million baht seized in the arrest of three suspects. Left to right are Mr Thatsanai Thatsanapremsing, his wife, Walaiphon, and Mr Wichai Saelim.

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CANADA

RCMP OFFICIAL SAYS DRUGS 'AFFECTING' INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 5 Nov 79 p 43

[Text]

VICTORIA (CP) — Trafficking in marijuana is such big business that it seriously affects the balance of payments of both Canada and the United States, a senior RCMP official says.

Insp. Dave Staples, the RCMP's chief drug investigator in British Columbia, says marijuana is the U.S.'s second largest import commodity, topped only by cars. Marijuana has overtaken coffee as Colombia's main export.

"Huge sums of money are reaching numbered bank accounts in Grand Cayman, Grenada and Switzerland," Staples said.

Organized crime makes more money on marijuana than on any other drug being peddled in Canada. For every dollar spent on heroin, five are spent on marijuana, hashish and liquid hashish.

The Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit estimates the annual heroin trade in B.C. at about \$250 million. Based on that figure, Staples said, trafficking in marijuana in the province is worth more than \$1 billion a year.

CSO: 5320

"What we are dealing with are very powerful and very sophisticated criminal organizations. Whether the importation is heroin or so-called soft drugs, we are finding the same people are engaged in bringing both substances into the country."

He said the variety of methods used to import marijuana, mostly from Colombia, is limited only by the imagination of the traffickers. They use cars, campers, boats, airplanes and even deep-sea freighters to move their goods.

Staples said drugs have been found in hollowed-out soles of shoes, suitcases with false bottoms, under floorboards, behind panels in vans, in tea bags, and in shampoo and suntan lotion bottles.

And recently in Chilliwack, drug officers discovered a cache of cocaine in a hollowed-out crucifix.

"It just goes to show that nothing is sacred," Staples said.

He said smugglers are using new routes along the West Coast to avoid pressure from U.S. authorities on smugglers using Caribbean routes.

Staples said there are only four or five places along the U.S. West Coast where ships can land clandestinely. As a result, most seagoing smugglers head farther north across the Strait of Juan de Fuca and along the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"If anyone was planning a drug operation of this kind, all he'd have to do is go up along Vancouver Island. The first ideal location he'd find is Sydney Inlet.

"There are only two logging operations in the area. Some fishing boats use the waters but by and large the place is deserted as far as marine traffic is concerned."

That area has been the scene of two major drug busts.

About 13.5 tons of marijuana was seized in July, 1978, and 33.5 tons was taken last May.

Those busts involved cooperation of police in several countries, satellite tracking of dope-laden boats moving along the coast, and support from the armed forces in making the arrests.

COLOMBIA

DRUG TRAFFICKING VIEWED AS MULTILATERAL PROBLEM

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Sep 79 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Drugs Are a Multilateral Problem"]

[Text] For days Colombian authorities concerned with the fight against drug trafficking have been meeting with U.S. representatives headed by Robert Graham, governor of Florida. In frank and cordial talks the various aspects of this serious matter have been discussed according to statements of Diego Asencio, ambassador of the United States, in a press conference. He explained that the \$16 million aid granted for use in the antidrug campaign in our country is almost eight times greater than the present American contribution to Colombian authorities engaged in the stubborn and sometimes effective fight against the producers and exporters of marihuana and the cocaine processors.

It seems to us that the way in which this serious matter is being handled is the most appropriate because it offers members of the American government and officials of our government the opportunity, in a comprehensive study of the increase in smuggling, to agree on the best means of shutting that criminal valve, not only harmful to the physical health of drug addicts but harmful to the morality of the officials who, for the sake of a few thousand pesos lavishly handed over to them, lack the integrity to refuse the bribes.

Of course we have always felt that the problem of drugs, in its different manifestations, is of a multinational nature, that is, not relating primarily only to the United States and Colombia, but to the other Latin American countries in general, who face an identical and disturbing risk. All this indicates that it is good that talks are being held now between U.S. government authorities and the police and army and customs officials of our country, but it would be beneficial if these talks were to be expanded somewhat internationally. Naturally, we applaud as just the assertion of Governor Graham that Colombia deserves more aid than she has been receiving up to now. Also, Ambassador Asencio has good reasons for stating that if it is true that the Colombian contribution to the campaign against the flow of marihuana and cocaine to the United States must be acknowledged it is clearly unjust to say that the United States has not pursued a course identical to that of our authorities.



We have difficulty in understanding the statement by Dr Hector Echeverri Correa, president of the Senate, who did not hesitate to state that the immorality involved in the illicit drug business worries our country more than it does the United States, because such an assertion is at best an overstatement. Dr Echeverri said, with more imagination than accuracy, that ships arrive here from the United States loaded with all manner of tranquilizers, arms and dollars which corrupt the virtue of the majority of the people of the United States as well as of Colombia. The agitated legislator added that American officials are very much concerned about marihuana production in Colombia but that their scientists, in spite of having research methods available such as those of Harvard University, give no indication of discovering the harm which the fateful weed can cause people, an evaluation which is at the least, absurd.

But in the end, this episode serves more as an anecdote than anything else. What is important is to point out the fact that in talks free of any prejudice the United States and Colombia are discussing a common danger. Even so we persist in believing that for greater effectiveness the matter must be given a genuine broad multinational character, given the fact that it is not only our country which is engaged in the fatal business but that others are too, perhaps to a smaller extent but, in all events, in some manner. For this reason we consider it a good decision to blockage our southern border, an open door for the entry of cocaine in abundance.

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COLOMBIA

BOGOTA DRUG TRAFFICKING GANGS ENGAGE IN SHOOTOUT

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Sep 79 p 2-A

[Text] A battle between gangs of drug traffickers which operate in Bogota left one person dead, another seriously injured and resulted in the total destruction of an automobile. The events took place at the intersection of 60th Street and Highway 59 when 8 persons who were traveling in 3 luxury cars intercepted an orange colored Renault, license plates AE-10-41, and shot several rounds of pistol fire at its 2 occupants.

The driver of the automobile being attacked attempted a maneuver to avoid the attack with the unfortunate consequence of the car turning around, an opportunity which the attackers took advantage of to finish off their two victims. One was killed instantly while the other was admitted to La Estrada clinic.

The person wounded was identified by the authorities as Carlos Navarrete, while the dead person had not been identified as of 1700 hours yesterday. The tires of the automobile that was attacked were deflated by the bullets and its windows were reduced to small fragments.

Police patrolling the area attempted to pursue the attackers but the latter managed to escape in the heavy traffic. An intensive operation was set into motion to learn the whereabouts of the perpetrators of the crime who, as was previously stated, were linked by the authorities to the drug trafficking gangs which operate in the city, but by nightfall they had not achieved positive results.

The two persons who were attacked were well dressed and unarmed; the person who died was wearing a ladies watch on the left wrist. The incident took place behind the Francisco Jose de Caldas Technical Institute.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'WORLDS LARGEST' COCAINE SEIZURE DESCRIBED

Biggest Cocaine Ring to Date

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Sep 79 p 2-D

[Text] The largest cocaine laboratory ever seized in the world, taken by the F-2 in the most sensational drug operation ever reported, extended over several regions of the country, according to the investigations which have thus far been carried out.

In contrast to traditional laboratories, which have their installations in only one place, this one had several branches in places which were up to 400 km apart.

In addition, the drugs already processed practically circled Colombia in an operation intended to throw off surveillance by the authorities.

The Branches

The report given yesterday to EL TIEMPO indicates that the process of making cocaine started in Bogota where the coca paste, which originated in Bolivia and Peru and arrived here in industrial quantities, was stored.

Depending on the speed of the processing, shipments of the paste were made from Bogota to the "Tirtarama" plantation which is located 4 km from Santa Rosa de Cabal (Risaralda) on the route to the hot springs.

The equipment required for adding to the paste the chemical compounds necessary for the extraction of the alkaloid was at this plantation.

Perhaps because of a low electric power voltage in the area of the plantation, the drying there was too slow for the quantity processed by the laboratory. Hence the gangsters decided to install drying plants in different locations. One of them was at 147-01 Highway No 90, another at 139A-42 on Cross-road [Transversal] No 26 and the third at 91-33 139th Street.

The fully processed cocaine, which was damp, was shipped to these addresses. The dryers, according to a very graphic description by the investigators were "veritable stadiums full of high powered lamps," which insured the drying of at least 100kg of cocaine daily.

To transport the cocaine to Bogota from "Tirtarama" plantation the gangsters took a circuitous route. Instead of taking it by the shortest route--Pereira-Bogota--they took it first to Valle del Cauca, then to Girardot and from there to Melgar and Bogota.

The transportation was carried out by several vehicles equipped with sliding tops in which up to 100 kg per crib were concealed.

#### The Destruction

The officers of the attorney general's office and criminal trial judge No 70, in charge of the investigations, were in a serious dilemma yesterday as to how to destroy the shipment of 800 kg of cocaine which had been confiscated from the ring.

Col Miguel Maza Marquez opposed the substance's being dissolved in water and discharged into the sewer system because almost a ton of the substance would enter the Rio Bogota and it would definitely mean the death of the river. As is well known, many Sabana inhabitants use these waters to prepare their food and for the irrigation of crops.

In the face of this situation it was decided to use incineration. This operation is supposed to start today.

#### Arrested

In the strikes against the gangsters which started on the "Tirtarama" plantation and culminated in Bogota, 28 persons have been captured, among them 5 "capos" or very important chiefs. These important chiefs are Anibal Ramirez Cardona, merchant; Guillermo Valencia Bravo; his son, Guillermo Leon Valencia Jaramillo, chemical engineer; Jose Antonio Estupinan Ardila [Sic. last name spelled Archila in photo on last page] and Arturo Contreras Pullonese.

#### Presidential Congratulations

President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala congratulated Col Miguel Maza Marquez, director of F-2, and his men "for their effective role in the great fight to which this administration is fully committed." The president was talking about the highly important action carried out against the traffickers.

The chief of state sent a letter to Brig Gen Pablo Rosas Guarin, director general of the National Police, in which he congratulates Maza Marquez. The text is as follows:

"Gen Luis Camacho Leyva, minister of National Defense, in today's ministerial resolution informed me of the strike of the F-2 against several members of a powerful cocaine ring. According to the report, what is involved is the most important action carried out anywhere against narcotics traffickers. This action is greatly to the credit of the National Police and its investigative bodies.

"I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to Col Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the F-2, and his men, for their effective role in the great fight to which this administration is fully committed.

"I take advantage of this opportunity to sign as your servant and friend, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala."

#### Ring's Bank Account Discovered

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Sep 79 p 6-B

[Text] A fabulous bank account with a periodic movement of more than 20 million pesos was discovered during the investigation carried out in connection with the seizure of the largest shipment of cocaine in history.

According to official reports the bank account was found at an agency in El Chico and was held by a man and a woman who are now fugitives.

The investigation of the activity in this account will uncover the contacts of the ring of drug traffickers, which apparently had managed to send to the United States large quantities of the hallucinogenic drug.

This ring of drug traffickers may also reveal the contacts who have been selling the drug to addicts in the United States.

Among those who received money from this account is a lawyer who collected numerous sums of money.

Other persons, whose names were not disclosed, are also being investigated on the basis of the checks drawn by the two persons in whose names the bank account is registered, Hader Alvarez Moreno and his lover Marina Murillo, who have disappeared and have presumably left the country.

As is known, the authorities also confiscated in the operation numerous vehicles, several laboratories, 800 kg of cocaine--whose retail value could be 32 billion pesos--and various documents which could lead to the arrest of the entire ring which has been called "The Colombian Connection."

The summary investigation of the confiscation of the 800 kg of cocaine, the seizure of numerous vehicles and the discovery of laboratories for the refining of the alkaloid were assigned to an expert examining magistrate, the attorney Ivan Almanza who is acting as judge No 70 and at the present time is studying the status of the arrested persons. These total 20: Pedro Antonio Orozco, Maria de Jesus Orozco, Jose Antonio Estupinan, Edgar Alonso Ramirez, Conrado Daza, Adolfo Leon Gonzalez, Carlos Naranjo, Arturo Contreras, Alvaro Londono, Gustavo Ortiz, Jairo Murillo, Geremias Salino [sic], Argemiro Munoz, Dario Padilla, Alfredo Suarez, Roman Sisquiedo [sic], Manuel A. Gonzalez, Rodrigo Solorzano, Jose Antonio Ramirez Loaiza and Carlos Julio Segura.

The last-named made an unsworn statement, at the end of which his attorney, Santiago Romero Sanchez, requested his unconditional release because it involves a person of modest means who had only 6 days earlier started to work at the Tirtarama plantation, where the laboratory was located. The judge agreed and released him.

The judge issued a ruling for the precautionary detention of Solorzano and Ramirez Loaiza. The status of the 17 others will be decided at any moment.

Those in charge of the investigation and the official who is drawing up the indictment are certain that the entire ring with its huge economic power will be uncovered and that guilt will be established since they have very concrete leads as to how the dirty money of the traffic was manipulated through current accounts.



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COLOMBIA

F-2 DIRECTOR COL MIGUEL MAZA MARQUEZ LAUDED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Sep 79 p 2-A

[Text] Thanks to an effective job of investigation the F-2 of the National Police was able to confiscate the largest amount of cocaine ever to be found in the hands of drug traffickers and to capture numerous members of a gang which of course has solid international connections. Col Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the F-2, under whose supervision the successful operation took place, was congratulated yesterday by Julio Cesar Turbay, president of the Republic, through a message sent to Brig Gen Pablo Rosas Guarin, director general of the Police. As may be recalled, one of the goals to which Colombia is committed is precisely the fight against the traffick of drugs, a task for which it has received offers of cooperation, especially from the government of the United States. The strike which was carried out on Tuesday against a gang of traffickers who were in possession of 800 kg of cocaine, does great credit, in the words of President Turbay, to the National Police and its investigative bodies.

Col Miguel Maza Marquez,  
director of the F-2.

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COLOMBIA

CERVANTES ANGULO AUTHORS BOOK ON THE MARIHUANA TRADE

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Nov 79 p 9-A

[Text] Journalist Jose Cervantes Angulo yesterday announced the publication of his book "The Night Of The Firefly" ("La Noche de Las Luciernagas") which deals with aspects of the marihuana trade in this part of the country.

Cervantes Angulo contracted with the publishing house Editotial Plaza y Janes for publication of his book which will have an issue of 5,000 copies and, as he said, "will expose a series of irregularities and the birth of a new social class in Colombia."

The book, which will contain 350 pages, was written utilizing evidence supplied by the most important official organizations engaged in the struggle against the growing and trafficking in marihuana, said this Barranquilla correspondent for the daily newspaper EL TIEMPO.

The locales selected for this literary work, which will be published in the second week of January [1980], were: Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Riohacha, the three most important cities affected by the marihuana traffic.

According to Cervantes Angulo, "The investigative work took one year and I saw, together with several other journalists and a photographer, the affected areas where the marihuana is cultivated."

The cities of Barranguilla, Santa Marta and Riohacha have become the three most important centers for the distribution of marihuana due to their geographic locations.

The greatest production of marihuana is in this region, located scarcely 800 kilometers to the north of Bogota, and where the military patrols have discovered and burned thousands of tons [of the drug].

"In the book," [he says,] "I tell how the marihuana mafia operates in Colombia and how they have come to manage huge fortunes."

CSO: 5300

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

DECEMBER DRUG ARRESTS--Col Alven Vega Rodriguez, narcotics director of the Public Security Ministry, has announced that the authorities will start arresting known drug traffickers effective 1 December. He said they will not be released until next year. These are vagrants who pay 180 colones fines when arrested for vagrancy and then return to the streets, he said. Vega Rodriguez noted that the authorities are trying to prevent them from getting involved in any offenses during the holidays. He added that there are two large areas where marihuana is produced: one from San Isidro del General to the northern border and another from Gupiles to Rio San Juan. For this reason the authorities are working very hard to block the drug traffic, which means roads may be closed, as we have already announced. Police are carrying out raids in San Jose, particularly in Central Avenue and in other places where there are crowds. [Text] [PA291604 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 79 PA]

DRUG TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--The narcotics department of the Public Security Ministry has arrested Romulo Miguel Leon Huertas for drug trafficking in San Jose Central Park. The authorities found 2 ounces of marihuana and 1 gram of cocaine in his possession. He worked in the drug department of the Health Ministry, where he stole cocaine, morphine, heroin, LSD, codeine and other drugs. [PA012210 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING BAND RAIDED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 21 Oct 79 p 10-A

[Text] The Federal Criminal Police yesterday broke up an international band of drug traffickers and arrested 13 of them in the city of Guadalajara. However, there remain to be apprehended another 20 members of the gang, which is operating in Colombia, Mexico and the United States.

They were arrested for crimes against health and were taken from Guadalajara to the PJF [Federal Criminal Police] cells in the Federal District, where they were interrogated by agents of the Narcotics Division of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

The Army participated in support of the federal body in the apprehension of the criminals.

Those arrested were engaged in buying, selling, preparing, transporting and distributing cocaine, heroin and marihuana, it was unofficially reported at the Office of the Attorney General.

The transfer was carried out with the greatest discretion, which was imposed on various officials of the PGR [Office of the Attorney General]. This information leaked out when representatives of three news media were present at the time of the transfer of those arrested to the cells.

We were informed confidentially that the corresponding investigation had not yet been initiated, because when the transfer was carried out, a considerable number of policemen were working intensely on the apprehension of the other drug traffickers, scattered throughout the border zone and in other parts of the country.

The zones of operation were located in the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Baja California. Some of the drug traffickers who are in the cells were apprehended in Tijuana, others in Nuevo Laredo and from these cities they were transferred to Guadalajara and subsequently to the Federal District.

In Colombia, they acquired the drugs, especially cocaine, which, together with heroin, they processed in a clandestine laboratory which they had established in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

8956  
CSO: 5300

81

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA COCAINE RING RAIDED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Oct 79 p 26-A

[Article by Rafael Medina and Victor Payan: "150 Million Pesos Worth of Cocaine Seized in Baja California"]

[Text] Pure cocaine worth 150 million pesos was intercepted by agents of the Federal Criminal Police at a tourist camp ground in northern Baja California.

The confiscation of the drugs took place immediately after Commander Clemente Moreno Hernandez had carried out an investigation related to an international gang which was transporting drugs in luxury yachts from this location to the United States.

Steve Curtis Zalabak was arrested at kilometer 45 of the Tijuana-Ensenada highway when he was transporting 12.5 kg of pure cocaine in hidden compartments in a Ford van. The drug trafficker, 34 years old, a native of California, revealed that he was delivering the drugs to Steve Bigler and Pat Passeheim, both Americans, at sea, off the coast of the Cantamar tourist camp, where they were waiting on board the yacht "Maurader" [sic].

Pat Passeheim, the owner of a handicrafts firm in California, and Steve Bigler, also a wealthy industrialist, for 2 years have been buying cocaine brought from Colombia by Steve Curtis.

When Commander Clemente Moreno found out the location of the yacht, he went with a group of agents to the spot, but when the crew of the yacht noticed that they had been discovered, they started the boat's engines and fled.

The federal agents and the coordinator of the campaign against drug traffic King, Carlos Aguilar Garza, requested the intervention of the Mexican navy and a boat pursued the yacht with negative results since the fugitives entered U.S. waters.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and the Mexican navy

requested the intervention of the U.S. authorities to apprehend the drug traffickers and to confiscate the yacht "Maurader" [sic].

The investigations were conducted by order of Carlos Aguilar Garza, after Curtis Zalabak revealed that the cocaine was delivered to the port of Ensenada by Carlos and Oscar Jimenez, of Costa Rican nationality, at the Hotel Bahia in that port.

The federal agents are looking for the two drug traffickers throughout the state since it is presumed that they are still there and traveling in a Volkswagen Combi van, coffee colored, with Florida plates.

The Jimenez brothers are natives of Santa Barbara, California, and they also have a criminal record for cocaine trafficking which extends back two years.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

TRAFFICKING RING CAUGHT, MARIHUANA SEIZED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 2 Nov 79 Sec B p 3

[Text] A devastating, productive action against the organized drug traffic was carried out by Federal Judicial Police agents who, with the aid of members of the Mexican National Army assigned to the Eighth Military Zone with headquarters in Tampico, Tamaulipas, discovered several marihuana plantations on the Mamaleon and San Rafael communal lands in the municipality of Tula, Tamaulipas, and at the same time seized 19 tons of cannabis indica, confiscated 10 weapons of different calibers and several small trucks, and captured five presumed drug traffickers.

Those under arrest answer to the names of German Dimas Nino, Refugio Chaires Barron, Matilde Garcia Llamas and Catarinao Padilla Alonso. Other individuals are being investigated but, since it is not yet known whether they are blameworthy, their names were not given by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Alfredo Aaron Jimenez, coordinator of the Federal Public Ministry agencies in the states of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Tamaulipas, notified EL MANANA yesterday that, at dawn on Wednesday, a contingent of federal agents and army forces made a surprise raid on the aforementioned communal lands, because they had been given a tip that the latter contained large marihuana plantations.

The results proved positive, because the land on the communal farms was filled with marihuana plants which, when cut, yielded an approximate weight of 17 tons.

In several houses on the communal lands, slightly over 2 tons of grass were seized, part of it already packed and the rest still in the raw state.

They also proceeded to confiscate 10 weapons of different calibers which the members of the underworld were using to guard the drugs.

During the operation, German Dimas Nino, Refugio Chaires, Ebodio Chaires and Matilde Garcia were arrested. The latter was responsible for distributing the cannabis indica seed, and also served as a contact between the growers and buyers.

A late-model 1979 Ford pickup truck with San Luis Potosi number plates and a 1973 Dodge without plates were seized.

The antidrug operation carried out by the federal agents detailed to Tamaulipas was considered highly important by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, because, as was commented, the "communal farmers" previously mentioned concealed their illegal activities with agriculture, planting, cultivating and harvesting huge shipments of marihuana, which they later exported for sale in the northern part of the United States.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

LONG JAIL SENTENCES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS REPORTED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 31 Oct 79 Sec B p 3

[Text] A total of 15 drug traffickers indicted in six trials heard in the third district court were given jail sentences for their guilt in committing crimes against health in various degrees. The terms to which they were sentenced total 91 years in jail, distributed among all of them.

Authorized personnel from the aforementioned court reported that, in connection with trial No 47-78, Ricardo Serna Lopez, Vicente Davila Ramirez and Arturo Garza Longoria were sentenced, and each will serve a 6 year prison term.

All three were arrested at the "Las Rusias" communal farm in the municipality of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, where they had 600 kilograms of marihuana ready to be exported.

In other proceedings, Oscar Vazquez Moreno, Jose Angel Diaz Moreno and Francisco Melendez Borrego were convicted, The first individual will serve a 7 year jail term, and the other two will be jailed for 4 years.

Nicolas Solano Arellano, who was cited in trial 95-979, will serve a jail sentence of 7 years.

The source of the report stated that, in connection with trial No 216-978, Raul Enriquez Sarinana, Daniel Baiz Hernandez and Humberto Salas Mireles were convicted; and the first individual will serve a prison sentence of 5 years and 6 months while the other two will be jailed for 5 years and 3 months.

The drug traffickers Ricardo Calvillo Rixley, Juan Jose Tamez Garcia and Martin Rodriguez Briones will serve similar sentences of 7 years in jail.

Finally, it was reported that Jose Guadalupe Ubaldo Carlos and Ramon Oliverio Perez Hinojosa were sentenced to 7 years in jail for their participation in drug trafficking.

2909  
CSO: 5330



MEXICO

FARMERS' DRUG GROWING BLAMED ON POVERTY

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 6 Nov 79 p 5

[Text] "The problem experienced by the people living in the mountains, in the areas of Sinaloa, Durango or Chihuahua, is social rather than moral or economic; because the majority of those individuals are suffering the consequences of a lack of facilities for education, health and sanitation, as well as of those of making a living; and hence they are forced to commit illegal actions.

"It is not that they are being excused, quite the contrary; but they must be seen and heard, and their misfortunes understood, in order to assess in all their dimensions, the problems of the families residing in the rugged mountain areas bordering the aforementioned states."

The foregoing statement was made by Cruz Lopez Garza, coordinator for Zone 06 of the Permanent Campaign Against the Drug Traffic being conducted by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic; who noted that both hunger and social neglect are the two main causes for the fact that these people engage in planting, cultivating and harvesting drugs.

He added that many of those arrested for illegal activities did not realize the risk that they were taking; and hence their culpability is rather unjust, but is in accordance with the laws, which cannot make any decisions other than legal ones.

And, to prove this, he took the reporter to the lockup of the police entity, where he had an opportunity to talk with three persons (two minors, and a Tarahumara Indian) who, upon being asked why they had been arrested, said that it was because they had been found with poppy seed in their possession, or else because they had been taking care of a plantation of the same crop.

When asked about the identity of the individual who had given them the seed, their lips were sealed; but they opened them again to answer the query as to why they had decided to work outside of the law. That answer was: "Our families are hungry."

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**2 OF 2**

The campaign coordinator told the reporter that he realized that many of those who commit this type of illegality do not know and could not even imagine how much is earned by those who lead them into it; exposing them directly to bearing the blame, while they are left only poverty for their survival.

Lopez Garza ended by saying that this is why the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic is now devising an infrastructural plan to be implemented in all the neglected areas throughout the country, to prevent this kind of action from continuing, which by no means benefits the individual, but rather degrades him and hurts what is most sacred to him, namely, his liberty.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFIC CLAIMED MINIMIZED--As part of his routine activities, the head of the Federal Judicial Police, Raul Mendiola Cerecero, paid a visit here, and expressed satisfaction at the results accrued by that entity, not only here on the border, but all over the country as well. He stressed the fact that the new systems which have been used have brought splendid results, so much so that the drug traffic has been minimized, as have other criminal activities. The police official said that the constant liaison that is maintained among all the forces makes it possible to alert each unit, and to keep abreast of each incident, something which has been reflected in effective strikes. Mendiola Cerecero returned to Mexico City yesterday, after concluding a brief inspection tour of the border area in Nuevo Laredo. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 27 Oct 79 Sec B p 3] 2909

TON OF MARIHUANA SEIZED--San Luis Potosi, 4 November--In a swift "commando operation," which began here and ended in Irapuato, Guanajuato, Federal Judicial Police agents seized a ton of "lamb's tail" marihuana (the highest priced) worth 10 million pesos, and captured nine persons who were riding in a Mercury car with Tamaulipas license plates. The Federal Public Ministry agent, Lauro Miguel Garcia Atilano, announced that the vehicle was being driven by Felix Araiza Uribe and Dante Ruben Sanchez del Castillo, and was discovered by federal agents on the Mexico City-Laredo highway, beyond the limits of Soledad Diez Gutierrez. A few moments earlier, the agents had stopped three cars in which smuggled goods were being transported. Upon searching the Mercury's trunk, they found nothing; but when they looked for the gas tank, they noticed that it had been removed, and, when they took off the bolts, they found that it had a false bottom. Later, they discovered about 1 kilogram of marihuana inside of it. They suspected that this concealed a larger amount; because to load a car with just 1 kilogram of drugs, with so many risks, was not worthwhile. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 5 Nov 79 p 6] 2909

PILL TRAFFICKERS CAUGHT--Roberto Vazquez Santiago, aged 29 and the son of the old "ill-pusher" nicknamed "La Lucy," turned out to be far better than she at the odious activity of pill trafficking. He was captured yesterday by agents of the special services, with 55 pills of the type known as "Tucionex" in his possession, which he was selling (and he managed to sell

thousands) for 45 pesos apiece. According to the recollections of former investigative agents, his mother and instructor in these activities, sold each pill for 3 pesos at the most, in her best times. Police Inspector Jose Refugio Ruvalcaba Munoz reported that Vazquez Santiago was captured as a result of the roundups that have been made recently in Bella Vista, the purpose of which is to curb the rampant crime and vice that have been stifling that area. Roberto, like his mother, has always used that district north of the town as a center of operations. It is where the members of that dangerous family of poisoners of the public were born and have always lived. In his written statement, the individual in custody said that he had been engaged in trafficking in toxic pills for some time, and that he made periodic visits to the southern part of the republic to obtain supplies of the commodity. He purchased the "Tucionex" pills for between 5,000 and 10,000 pesos on each trip, and had always carried them here without any great difficulty. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 3 Nov 79 Sec E p 8] 2909

COCAINE SEIZURE IN NOGALES--Hermosillo, Son. 18 October--Pure cocaine, with a value of more than 16 million pesos on the drug black market, was seized today by agents of the Federal Criminal Police, who also arrested five drug traffickers who make up an international gang with contacts in Colombia and the United States. The drug seizure, as well as the capture of the criminals, was carried out in Nogales, in this city and in Culiacan, Sin. Arrested were: Jesus Rivera, Reinaldo Serrano Moreno, Arturo Lugo Lugo, Benito Bejarano Gonzalez and Tadeo Matzukumoeo Perez. Some 7 kg of pure cocaine, originating from Colombia, were seized from them, which they intended to introduce into the United States. The agent from the Federal Public Ministry in Nogales, Son., Humberto Garcia de Alba, said that the drugs and those arrested remained at the disposition of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Oct 79 p 27-A] 8956

MARIHUANA SEIZED IN VERACRUZ--Coatzacoaloos, Ver., 19 October--The Federal Criminal Police, assisted by troops from the 24th Infantry Battalion, arrested five drug traffickers and seized a ton and a half of marihuana at La Perla ranch, in the municipality of Hidalgotitlan. Those arrested, from whom they took two submachine guns and eight 38 caliber pistols, were Rosalio Gonzales Jaimes, Mateo Mota, Rolando Lopez Reyes, Gaudencio Hernandez and Estanislao Mario. The agent from the Federal Republic Ministry, Pedro Diaz Herrera, pointed out that the criminals were trying to set up at the aforementioned ranch a clandestine laboratory to process drugs. In the vicinity of the ranch, he added, they also discovered a clandestine landing strip. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Oct 79 p 32-A] 8956

CSO: 5300

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

ADDICTS, TRAFFICKERS HELD--According to Francisco Garmendia, second in command at the Sandinist Police Central's drugs and narcotics section, all persons arrested for possession of marihuana or other drugs or for suspected [possession or use] of drugs will have to spend a minimum of 7 days in jail while investigations are being conducted. If not found guilty during that time, the person will be immediately released. Garmendia also announced marihuana traffickers found guilty will be sentenced to 1 to 4 years in one of the free zone's new jails. In conclusion he said youths who are just addicted to drugs, but do not traffick in them, will be retained in special rooms at the Sandinist Police Central where they will be rehabilitated through political and other types of lectures. [Text] [PA290300 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 21 Nov 79 p3 PA]

CSO: 5300

RHODESIA

ALCOHOLISM, DRUG ABUSE CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Salisbury THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 16 Nov 79 p 4

[Article: "Drug Abuse--The Unwanted Import"]

[Text] Of the twin 20th century social problems--alcoholism and drug abuse--only the former has given Zimbabwe Rhodesia serious cause for concern in recent years.

With the imminent opening up of the country to a freer movement of people and goods, will the smuggling of drugs of the "hard stuff" variety begin to impose on the country's medical, industrial and social welfare resources, the same kind of strains that it does in many countries of the Western world?

When Financial Gazette put this question to the Drug Squad this week the answer was a cautious, "We don't think so."

"For one thing the Blacks who are traditional dagga smokers, do not normally go for drugs like heroin or cocaine. For another, the youngsters of this country as a whole are so sport-orientated that we don't see them suddenly getting a craving for these drugs," said a spokesman.

He thought there might be a problem with the return home of some of the young people of all races who have been living in Continental countries like Switzerland or Holland where drugs are freely available. They might bring the habit and the demand for "hard stuff" back with them, but their influence, it was hoped, would be relatively minor.

Meanwhile, a depleted Drug Squad consisting of eleven people, is kept busy keeping a check on the smoking of dagga. During the period March to the end of August this year, 733 arrests for "possession" (involving 78 kg of dagga), and 95 arrests for "supplying" (involving 5 kg) were made.

"If we had more staff, I've no doubt these figures would be much higher," said the spokesman. Moreover, the area now covered was merely Greater

Salisbury instead of the whole of Mashonaland (including the TTL's where "dagga farms" are known to exist).

The introduction of road blocks had accounted for a large number of arrests, he said, and also for the greatly increased quantities of "grass" seized.

The Drugs Squad works in close co-operation with the Drug Dependence Council, to which first offenders are nearly always referred.

Mrs Elizabeth Stamps, the Council's acting chairman said her callers were usually between the ages 18-24. Most were dagga smokers, but other common addictions included tranquilisers such as valium, and codeine-based cough mixtures. Fairly common, too, is an addiction to the "sniffing" of paint thinners.

Because it often takes months, even years, to rehabilitate patients, the Council is hoping soon to take larger premises--perhaps a house--where patients can be helped to overcome their problems.

"What I call success is re-introducing people to society, so that they are able to have a happy relationship at home, and are able once more to hold down a job," said Mrs Stamps.

CSO: 5300



ZAMBIA

DRUG ABUSE REACHES ALARMING PROPORTIONS

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 11 Nov 79 p 1

[Text]

DRUG abuse in Zambia has reached alarming proportions with medical authorities expressing grave concern about the number of people being hospitalized at Chainama Hills Hospital for treatment.

"Drug abuse in the country will become very serious in about two years if the authorities don't take urgent measures to arrest the situation," warned medical superintendent at the hospital, Dr Sudarshan Chawla, in Lusaka yesterday.

He said his hospital was admitting not less than 12 people every month for treatment.

Among the worst addicts are secondary school and college students, said the doctor who added that the number could be higher than 12 a month since other patients were being attended to by different doctors.

Dr Chawla attributed the scourge to uncontrolled dagga "farming," mostly in backyards, especially those of the sprawling shanty compounds.

**Legal**

He added that lack of stiff legal action had contributed to

the high incidence of dagga smoking, particularly among youth.

"We are admitting not less than 12 people for about three weeks and thereafter we make them outpatients for about six months in order to be fully cured," he said.

Dr Chawla said the hospital only recommended rare cases for drug taking licences but pointed out there was no justification to recommend a person for dagga smoking.

He said: "We only recommend people to take drugs like morphine and alcohol if their lives are threatened," he said.

He called for concerted efforts to educate addicts about the harmful effects of drugs if the situation was to be controlled, adding: "Efforts should be directed at stopping the growing of dagga."

Dr Chawla stressed that drug addicts should not feel ashamed to go to hospital for treatment if at all they wanted to be cured.

Meanwhile, Dr Chawla said the Government was going to establish two rehabilitation centres, costing thousands of Kwacha for mental patients in the Northern Province next year.

ZAMBIA

DRUG ABUSE ON INCREASE

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 18 Nov 79 p 7

[Text] Police Inspector-General, Mr Crispin Katukula, has urged the public to report to his officers anybody found cultivating or being in possession of dagga.

The appeal comes in the wake of a disclosure by medical authorities that drug abuse has reached alarming proportions in the country.

Chainama Hills hospital medical superintendent, Dr Sudarshan Chawla, last week reported that more than 12 people were treated for drug addiction every month.

Secondary school and college students were some of the worst addicts, he said and blamed uncontrolled dagga "farming", mostly in back-yards of shanty compounds.

Dr Chawla complained of lack of stiff legal action to curb dagga smoking.

Mr Katukula said police would co-operate with anyone who had information on dagga peddling.

He disagreed with Dr Chawla's contention that the problem had been aggravated by weak legal penalties against culprits.

"We have arrested people found cultivating or being in possession of dagga and they have appeared in courts and fined or given jail sentences.

"Our present laws against dagga are quite adequate. All we need is co-operation from members of the public to arrest the situation."

CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

NEW LAW ON CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR DEALING PROPOSED

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Nov 79 pp 244-246

[Unattributed article: "A Few Years More"]

[Text] Those in Bonn want to stem heroin traffic with a new narcotics law with stiffer penalties. Experts doubt the chances for success.

"O just, refined and powerful opium, you possess the key to paradise," once raved Charles Baudelaire, the drug-addicted poet. If Minister of Health Antje Huber has her way, these flowery words would have put the bard behind bars.

Threat of punishment--a fine or imprisonment of up to 3 years--for public praise of drug misuse is one of the innovations in Antje Huber's draft for an amendment of the narcotics law that was passed last week by the cabinet. The main points of the reform are as follows:

The maximum penalty for serious drug offenses is to be raised from 10 years to 15, the minimum penalty from 1 to 2 years;

Persons accused of drug addiction who volunteer for a detoxification program can count on reduced penalties;

Members of dealer gangs can be given reduced penalties "if they voluntarily impart their information to an official agency so that crimes of other gang members are prevented."

With the aid of new paragraphs and increased penalties, the federal government is attempting to stem the tidal wave of heroin. This year more than 600 West German junkies will give themselves the mortal shot--almost 200 more than in 1978 and almost double the number of deaths in the United States, where the number of drug deaths is steadily declining: More junkies die in Berlin than in New York.

It cannot be doubted that the FRG has meanwhile become one of the largest drug markets. Last year the drug-hunters secured some 190 kg of heroin, 400 times as much as in 1970.

Experts disagree on whether the new legal initiatives will have success. Once before, 8 years ago, politicians attempted to scare dealers and consumers with harsher penalties--without success.

"In spite of (the previous) increase in penalties," the explanation of the reform bill curiously states, "delinquencies continued to increase." To be sure, the Bonn people intend to take a more differentiated approach this time around. Professional dealers are to be treated more harshly, addicted consumers more leniently.

Thus, the sale of drugs for profit to juveniles, the supplying of drugs resulting in death and the import of narcotics "in not small amounts" are to be treated henceforth as felonies rather than misdemeanors. "The dealers will behave differently when they have to count on 12, 13 or 14 years in prison," hopes Gerd Pfeiffer, president of the Federal High Court.

Experts of the drug scene consider Bonn's intent to divorce the addict who is prepared for therapy from the criminal scene as a correct beginning. To be sure, this suggestion is opposed by the CDU/CSU, whose alternative draft amendment to the narcotics law wants to place penalty above therapy. Even a person ready for therapy will, according to the Union plan, "be subjected to a penalty whose length is especially suited to resocialize the delinquent drug addict."

The coalition draft does not differentiate between hard and soft drugs. Such a differentiation has been demanded, for example, by the Young Democrats, who advocate the legalizing of possession of small amounts of hashish. Such attempts are also opposed by most drug experts. For example, Munich drug therapist Dr Helmut Waldmann argues that hashish is not a physiologically, but certainly a socially introductory drug. Hashish and heroin scenes are said to be in close contact--wherever hashish is sold, heroin will indubitably come into play also. "The separation of soft scene from hard scene cannot be achieved by legal liberalization," states Berlin's drug commissioner Wolfgang Heckmann.

Waldmann considers Bonn's idea to make a glorification of drug abuse punishable by law to be "window-dressing" and a "sign of total helplessness," although the Health Ministry reasons that this would "push culpability into the forefront." Bonn's draft, Waldmann argues, would "overburden the judges;" he sees in it an attempt "to prod with legal means in a field that is properly a disease."

But even where the drug scene is not a disease but a business, drug fighters do not hope for too much from Bonn's draft, especially not from the increased penalties threat.

Berlin drug commissioner Heckmann said that the drug business "involves such large sums that a few more years will hardly be a deterrent."

9240  
CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

IMPROVED CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS FOR DRUGS SOUGHT

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Nov 79 p 18

[Unattributed article: "Narcotics: Herold's International"]

[Text] Horst Herold, hunter of terrorists, was militant. He planned to "make war at the Dardanelles"; he wanted to erect "a wall" at the Bosphorus. Thus spoke the president of the Federal Criminal Police Bureau (BKA) to the Interior Committee of Bonn's Bundestag.

The strong words of the highest German criminal officer are directed at the drug smugglers who for years have inundated the FRG via the "Turkish Connection" with ever-increasing amounts of heroin from the poppy fields of the Middle East.

Together with Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, Herold has been developing his defensive plans. Customs, Federal Border Police and the BKA, together with the American DEA narcotics agency (Drug Enforcement Administration), are to join in building an information system that is designed to monitor all smuggling paths well beyond the Balkans. In a vast office in Wiesbaden or Paris, specialists are to coordinate the computer systems of the various countries and thus keep the international dealer rings under surveillance around the clock.

For example, should an FRG border post submit information on suspects, the tip would be clarified and evaluated "within a minute" (according to the BKA concept) on a worldwide basis. Not only the special data banks of the criminal bureaus of the Laender, the BKA and the EDD files of FRG customs are available, but two additional data systems of the Americans (yearly expense of 35 million dollars) will provide background analyses. In the future, colleagues from the criminal police of Austria, Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria are to be brought into the "joint information center" (Herold's words). Ultimately, even terminals on the Black Sea are conceivable. Last week Baum and Herold traveled to Belgrade to make their plan attractive to the Yugoslavs.



Above all, the BKA wants to subject the daily flood of transit trucks and the cars of guest workers to control. A conceptual model envisions an international division of labor. Bulgarians, for example, would alternately search all Volkswagens crossing the borders, the Austrians all trucks, the Bavarians all campers.

9240  
CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

COCAINE USE INCREASES IN FRANKFURT DRUG SCENE

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 12 Nov 79 pp 134-135

[Article: "Narcotics: Death With Charley"]

[Text] In the opinion of narcotics agents, the FRG is facing a new drug wave: cocaine. An analysis by Frankfurt police detectives is providing an insight into the "coke" scene.

According to friends, he "liked to make the dolls dance" in the "Dorian Gray" discotheque near the Rhine-Main Airport. Occasionally, for his own amusement, he rented an entire suite in the Plaza Hotel in Frankfurt. And sometimes, because he belonged to a certain circle and it was expected of him, the son of a Hanau businessman would take drugs in stereo: an injection of heroin in the arm, a pinch of cocaine through the nose.

Now he died in accordance with his station. The young man from a well-to-do family was found dead near Mosbach in Baden, on the passenger side of a Jaguar, with an overdose of narcotics in his body.

Almost classic was the drug career of a 20-year-old casual laborer in Frankfurt. As a public school student he smoked hashish, when he was 18 he took heroin, finally he tried coke. It led him to new heights.

When the fixer experienced his first cocaine shots, "the feeling was much more intoxicating than it was when taking heroin." He experienced a "flash lasting for several minutes," he had a "strong urge to be active and talk." After continuing the injections, according to the description he gave to the police, he was experiencing "more and more fear, I had hallucinations."

Those who get high on cocaine or die from it include both snobs and casual laborers. A study by Frankfurt police detectives indicates what kind of people may be susceptible to the deadly stuff: prostitutes and stewardesses, fixers and film producers, homosexuals and Sunday painters--according to Knut Stroh, director of the narcotics department, "the palette is more varied than in the case of heroin."

According to an analysis of the Frankfurt coke market, "snow," "Charley," or "C" as a stimulant is no longer restricted to musicians lacking inspiration or tired partygoers. Peter Loos, chief police commissioner in Frankfurt, stated that the narcotic "covers almost the entire subculture" down to the fixer colonies.

Estimates by police detectives indicate that the amount of cocaine that has been sniffed or injected to date is only a fraction of the amount of heroin that is consumed. But the number of cocaine seizures is rising rapidly. In Frankfurt alone, during 30 police actions as much as 8.8 kilograms have been seized this year until the end of October. Last year there were only 10 incidents involving 1.6 kilograms for the entire year.

The Frankfurt scene has been notorious on several occasions when new manifestations of narcotics crimes were involved. And drug experts are predicting that the information about cocaine consumption is apparently a signal for a development which will spread through the entire FRG: The middle-class drug is spreading fast and affecting the world of juvenile addicts. It appears that fears of the Bonn Ministry of the Interior will be confirmed as to the danger that "this narcotic" will lead "to an intensification of the drug situation."

German narcotics agents were alarmed at rising cocaine imports from South America, above all cheap merchandise from Bolivia. With increasing frequency drug inspectors were intercepting letters containing a few grams or couriers carrying a few kilograms of the crystal fine powder. Initial information indicated that the shipments were destined primarily for better addresses.

In the United States, which has been deluged with this narcotic from South America for years, coke addiction has been a national epidemic for some time. Among the victims who died of an overdose of cocaine or a mixture of cocaine and other drugs are 15-year-old girls and 45-year-old men, almost as many blacks as whites.

When someone dies of coke in the FRG, it is still an isolated incident among the many victims of heroin. Deadly is the mixture of heroin and cocaine--a game spreading on the Frankfurt drug scene. An example is the mentioned incident involving the son of a Hanau businessman.

In the meantime there are addicts who "will take anything they can get their hands on" (Loos). The Frankfurt study revealed furthermore that consumers of cannabis and pills are also susceptible to cocaine. They consider heroin too risky as the next step in their drug career.

In addition there are addicts who use cocaine because they want to get rid of their heroin addiction. Most of the time they become hooked on both of them. In addition to the strong physical withdrawal and deterioration symptoms of heroin use--shaking, a strong urge to vomiting and rashes--a definite psychic dependence is added, including hallucinations.



This happened to a Frankfurt fixer who bought 1/2 gram of cocaine for DM 80 on the "hashish meadow" in Bockenheimer Park; within 20 minutes he gave himself two injections and then, according to his description to police detectives, he saw "behind a bush first one and later two or three policemen in uniform."

The coke user "changed locations in the park three times but the police continued to follow me." Even later, at a meeting of homosexuals, he saw "male persons, officers of the Frankfurt narcotics department"--as it turned out later, all of it was nothing but visions.

The powder, according to information gathered by Frankfurt police detectives, "is also entering the strip." In the past, pimps were primarily responsible for making young girls dependent on heroin and then pushing them into prostitution; now "high-class prostitutes" (Loos) are voluntarily taking advantage of a characteristic of cocaine: the stimulating effect on the libido.

The "wonder drug," as it was called toward the end of last century and praised in medical journals and which Sigmund Freud sent to his bride to make her "strong and vigorous," is helping prostitutes to enjoy their work. They like to approach men because as a prostitute related to the police, "I seem to be able to perform."

On the other hand, however, doctors have found that potency in men decreases; continued use of cocaine promotes perversions and homosexual acts--according to police detectives another reason why coke is used more frequently in homosexual bars.

Charley also causes death behind closed doors. A police detective who had secretly made his way into a snuff spot near the Frankfurt railroad station found conditions very similar to those during prohibition. Following an agreed-upon signal, the window was opened and a key was thrown down. Upstairs was a convivial group and "everything was there"--according to the official.

Among the group were an unemployed writer who had procured the snuff and a stewardess who told the police that it was "customary" in this clique "to take coke."

Circles like this one still consider cocaine a harmless substance. Narcotics Agent Stroh stated that "young people" find their way into these circles, "they simply inhale the stuff and are not able to control it." And the officials noticed that it is particularly fashionable to inhale coke through the nose using a rolled-up 100-mark note.

Addresses for buyers of "C" are already distributed secretly beyond Frankfurt. Police detectives were watching a coke supplier in the city and noticed the arrival of cars from all kinds of possible areas. Said Agent Stroh: "It is scattering more and more."

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

POLICE SEIZE HEROIN 'WHOLESALE' IN MUNICH

Munich SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 2 Nov 79, p 17, p 18

[Article by Thomas Muenster: "Sandals as Hiding-Place for Heroin"]

[Text] On Tuesday a 59-year-old Persian was arrested on Ettstrasse. He has been known to narcotics agents since the beginning of the 1970's as a "wholesaler" of hashish. After he had been caught in Austria, carrying 500 kilograms of hashish, and sentenced to a 5 1/2-year prison term he apparently switched to harder drugs: The agents confiscated 370 grams of heroin. The arrest of this person brings to 70 the number of dealers caught in Munich just during the month of October.

When agents of the Land Bureau of Criminal Investigation found out that an "old acquaintance," the Iranian citizen Farrokh T., was in Munich, they searched hotels and boarding-houses in Munich until they were able to locate him in a boarding-house on Herzog-Heinrich-Platz. During an extended period of surveillance they noticed that he established contacts with many suspicious persons. The agents concluded that Farrokh T. had to be in possession of hot merchandise.

On Tuesday evening T. wanted to go to a meeting on Lenbach platz. He parked his car on Ettstrasse, a few meters from police headquarters. Here, agents finally made their move. In his pocket the Persian had a small plastic bag containing 180 grams of heroin as well as a forged passport that he wanted to use for identification. But when agents called him by his name and also showed him a photo of the fugitive, he admitted his identity but stubbornly refused to give his address.

A search of his room in the boarding-house quickly revealed the reason for his refusal. The heel of a sandal was cut open. The visible hollow space indisputably showed traces of heroin. The second shoe appeared to be "harmless"; at least, even the most meticulous search could not establish any kind of manipulation. When, as a matter of precaution, the heel was cut open anyway, an additional 190 grams of heroin were discovered.

Apparently the narcotic had been placed inside the shoes during the manufacturing process. T. finally admitted that he had bought the prepared sandals from a "specialist" in Istanbul.

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FRANCE

SIX ARRESTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Oct 79 p 12

[Article by Claude Regent]

[Text] Lyon--An important drug traffic network operating between Iran and France was dismantled on Tuesday 23 October in the Valence and Romans (Drome) region. Investigators from the regional service of the Lyon Criminal Investigation Department, from the Narcotics Office and from Customs Inquiries, made six arrests, including a former member of the guard of the shah of Iran, who recently got out of prison. These six persons (whose identities have not been revealed) were brought before the examining magistrate Wednesday morning.

The complicity of a Valence forwarding agent who was familiar with the financial obstacles, Etablissements Montaner, twice made it possible for 2.2 tons of hashish to pass into France, along with 20 kilos of heroin. However, only a few kilos of hashish and a small amount of heroin were seized. The investigators estimate the entire traffic to be 5 to 10 tons of hashish. Five executives of the Montaner firm were questioned. Truck drivers were not involved in the traffic, which seems to have been organized by the management team of Etablissements Montaner.

Trucks had been specially equipped with false fuel tanks. Three of them were seized. From Valence the trucks were driven to Belgium or Holland, or even Switzerland, where the merchandise was delivered and then distributed throughout all of Europe.

The Criminal Investigation Department is letting it be understood that other arrests--of "big shots"--are likely within the next few days, and that the affair is undoubtedly interconnected with the pastis being trafficked, which cost the lives of three persons several weeks ago, also in the Valence region. In fact, anethole was discovered in the home of one of the persons questioned.

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FRANCE

TRAFFICKERS, ADDICTS ROUNDED UP IN CALVADOS

Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Nov 79 p 12

[Article by T.B.: "Four Thousand Heroin Doses Sold in Nine Months"]

[Text] Caen--"If justice can forget you, drugs won't fail you." When he thus concluded his closing argument in the proceedings that followed the Caen "drug party" of 29 January, Jean-Francois Perie, surrogate prosecutor for the Republic, saw correctly. Less than three years later one of those accused at that time, Dominique Doignies, 26, has just been arrested, with four other persons, by the regional service of the Criminal Investigation Department at Caen. In nine months the small network has sold nearly 4,000 doses of heroin in the region. In January 1977 Dominique Doignies had helped to transport in his automobile the body of one of the two drug addicts who died of an overdose in the studio rented by Vincent Girault, the son of the mayor of Caen and senator (UDF [French Democratic Union]). (LE MONDE, 6-7 February 1977.) On the following 10 August he was sentenced to ten months in prison, suspended. Like all the accused in this affair, Dominique Doignies took drugs himself. He was a drug addict and a trafficker at the same time. Early this year he settled, with a friend, Marie-Jose Anrioud, 25, in a peaceful house at Courvandon, near Aunay-sur-Odon (Calvados). Very soon, many comings and goings intrigued the little village of 220 inhabitants. The police then watched the house. Several days ago they questioned the two tenants and three of their regular visitors. Starting with the five of them, they had set up a network that extended over all of Lower Normandy. Dominique Doignies was the wholesaler. Twice he succeeded in procuring 50 grams of heroin, for a total of 60,000 francs. The drug, after it was cut to 60 percent, was then sold by the consumer-sellers. The police estimate that in nine months the members of the network divided up almost 3,000,000 francs in this way. Only Dominique Doignies was placed in custody. According to the services of the Criminal Investigation Department, this is the only heroin-selling network in the region. Nothing here is comparable to what is happening in Marseilles or Paris. Heroin addicts manage to supply themselves abroad or in the Parisian region.

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GREECE

DOGS TO BE USED FOR DANGEROUS DETECTION

Athens ELEVTHEROITYPIA in Greek 5 Oct 79 p 3

[Text] The government is not able to keep a check on the channels through which narcotics are being transmitted to Greece, admitted Minister of Public Order Balkos yesterday. And a reliable source connected with the public-security authorities gave the information that between the years 1977 and 1978, imports of narcotics into Greece have increased by about 49 percent.

In connection with his stressing the spreading use of narcotics, Mr Balkos refers again to the law draft with which the security authorities are to be provided with trained dogs "in order to begin the pursuit of narcotics smugglers."

And whereas Mr Balkos maintains that this bill "has been completely depoliticized," he admitted in the statements which he made yesterday that these dogs--besides being used in searches of soccer fields, for the detection of narcotics, and for the discovery of wanted criminals--will also be used for the "detection of weapons."

Imports of narcotics into Greece increased 49 percent between the years 1977 and 1978, as is evident from the increase in the confiscated quantities of narcotics.

This was acknowledged yesterday by a reliable source connected with the security authorities, while Minister of Public Order Balkos said that "in fact, an increase is being seen in the importing of narcotics, and this is because it is not possible to check the tens of thousands of suitcases of the tourists who come into Greece, nor the thousands of private vehicles, in order to discover any small or large quantities of narcotics which might be brought in."

The minister admitted that a search effort to track down and detect the narcotics which foreigners are bringing in to Greece is almost impossible, because the suitable resources do not exist, and above all because the ratification is being delayed of the above-mentioned bill,

with which the security authorities are to procure trained dogs in searching for and locating narcotics, as is done in almost all the countries in the world.

If we had these dogs, the matter would be very easy, stressed the minister, because when they are suitably trained, these dogs are able to locate the specific suitcase or the specific private vehicle which is carrying narcotics, and even the spot where these drugs are hidden.

This bill, added Mr Balkos, is ready for ratification, and "in fact it has been completely depoliticized, inasmuch as it now provides that the dogs will be used only: a. for soccer fields, b. for the detection of narcotics and weapons, and c. for the detection of wanted criminals, who will be located from the scent of objects which they have left behind at the scene of the crime.

No other use of these dogs is provided for by the bill in the form which it now has, added Balkos, and thus it cannot happen that use will be made of it for political purposes, against political meetings, marches, and so forth.

"The only thing now left to do," concluded Balkos, "is to have the bill passed as quickly as possible by the Chamber of Deputies, so that the security authorities can be provided with these dogs as soon as possible and so that the pursuit of criminals and especially of narcotics smugglers can begin."

"The merchants of slow death have dangerously extended their activity among the young children, both outside the schools and even within them. This issue does not admit of any delays, and society must defend itself immediately and energetically."

This is stressed in the statement made yesterday by the president of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Efraimoglou, who welcomes and praises the initiative of the minister of education in connection with the instituting of courses at all the levels of the educational system which are in the nature of seminars on social guidance (campaign against smoking and narcotics, and so forth).

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ITALY

FIVE KILOS OF HEROIN CONFISCATED, TWO ARRESTS

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 29 Sep 79 p 5

[Text] Milan--Two persons--Agostina Crespiatico, 45 years of age, from Milan, and Romolo D'Arcangelo, 38 years old, who lives with her--were arrested yesterday, and 4.7 kilograms of pure heroin were seized by investigators at the conclusion of a vast operation conducted by the police's antidrug corps in collaboration with the narcotics squad of the Milan police headquarters. The value of the drugs would be about 6 billion lire.



In the photos:  
Agostina Crespiatico and  
Romolo D'Arcangelo (above)  
and part of the recovered  
drug (below)

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ITALY

BRIEFS

HASHISH, MARIHUANA SEIZURES--Part of a substantial quantity of soft drugs, entering Rome and coming from North Africa, was seized by members of the police operations squad. A few days ago, Colonel Viti (new commander replacing Antonio Cornacchia) and Captain Ragusa had been informed that two Moroccans had succeeded in having 70 kilograms of hashish, concealed in loaves of bread, arrive at the Fiumicino Airport. During preliminary investigations the officers had learned that some small-time pushers were awaiting a special shipment to be picked up in the Montesacro area. A compromising telephone call put the investigators on the track of a "go-between," who arranged to meet the "small fish" in the afternoon in Montesacro near Zio d'America; he was arrested while about to hand over the drugs. His name is Raffaele Campaiola (33 years old, employee at the agency of automobile practices in Conca d'Oro Street); he did not have time even to begin to attempt flight. He was found in possession of 10 loaves of bread containing 1 kilogram of hashish and 6,000 doses of marihuana and was arrested on the charge of selling narcotics. [Excerpts] [Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 4 Oct 79 p 5] 8568

HEROIN SEIZURE--The most extensive operation to take place in some time is the seizure of 1,650 grams of heroin. Two Syrians were trying to smuggle it into the country, arriving yesterday morning in a plane coming from Damascus and headed for Milan where the drug was to be delivered. The two individuals arrested are Mahmud Dammun from Azaz, 35 years old, and Ibrahim Mamduh Shawwal, also from Azaz, 33 years old. The drug was found in false bottoms located in the side of luggage; sold retail, it could have netted about 0.5 billion lire. [Excerpts] [Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 10 Oct 79 p 9] 8568



DRUG RING DISBANDED--Rome--The 600 kilograms of hashish transported by sea from Greece to Apulia were to be the "major coup" of Filiberto Reggio's international drug ring. But unforeseen bad weather followed by a series of delays and accidents to the open-sea motorboat had put the police in "contact" with the traffickers. Investigating Judge Antonio Stipo sent 26 persons back to justice; some of the accused were acquitted upon investigation, while others, also wanted, are still at large. In the opinion of the judge, who spent 6 months on extremely thorough investigation, there is no doubt: here we are faced with a drug-trafficking ring of unbelievable proportions, a "criminal organization whose complex and multiple connections coincided with precise demands in the assignment of responsibilities." In short, from an efficiency standpoint, we are dealing with capable people. The judge found himself faced with an "organizational structure"--he wrote--which had extended the tentacles of the illicit activity to Sicily, Calabria, Apulia, Tuscany and Lombardy, even succeeding in setting up precise connections with criminal elements in Greece and Turkey. [Excerpts] [Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 17 Oct 79 p 7] 8568

DRUGS STOLEN FROM PHARMACY--Cagliari, 20 October--More than 400 ampules of morphine, cocaine, opium, codeine and other narcotics-based drugs together with 1,000 syringes were stolen from a pharmacy in Cagliari. The robbery undertaking was carried out during the night in a pharmacy belonging to Marco Bianchina in Maracalagonis, a Cagliari center 16 kilometers from the island's provincial capital. [Text] [Milan IL GIORNALE NUOVO in Italian 21 Oct 79 p 6] 8568

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SPAIN

DRUG ADDICTION REPORTEDLY ON THE INCREASE

Preliminary Report on Interministerial Committee

Madrid BLANCO Y NEGRO in Spanish 26 Sep 79 - 2 Oct 79 pp 18-24

[Text] Narcotics, which used to pass through Spain, are now remaining here. For some, almost 1 million, they have become a pastime; for others who weave a far-reaching spiderweb, they have become the most profitable business of the century.

The youth of Spain, who have undergone a fundamental change in the last few years are going through an anxiety crisis. For this reason, they resort to drugs. What does society offer them as an alternative? Terrorism, conflicts, insecurity, selfishness...

Why do young Spaniards resort to drugs? At what age and with what drug do they begin? How much do they spend? What social classes do Spanish drug addicts belong to? What is their political ideology? Here is a statistical report, an exclusive preliminary report for BLANCO Y NEGRO readers about the present state of our country with respect to this worldwide problem.

"These are the first statistics, which are quite reliable, of a serious study carried out at the government's request," Maria Jesus Monovel, secretary of the Interministerial Drug Committee, tells us. "This committee," she continues, "which is composed of members from most of the ministries, is chaired by Rovira Tarazona, minister of health and social welfare, pending a reorganization decree, has had as its purpose ever since it was created on 25 December 1978 to study the drug problem, to coordinate the action of the various ministries with a view toward planning for this activity and to establish the criteria to be followed in working out a coherent policy on the subject."

The study has been carried out by the Center for Urban and Rural Research and Documentation (CIDUR) and up to now has been a confidential matter. Can a problem of general interest be considered a confidential matter? How long will we have a policy of official secrets?

A sample of 1,596 youths and adolescents of both sexes was used: 819 males and 777 females, between 12 and 24 years of age, divided into generational groups and distributed over the different regions of the country with towns of more than 10,000 inhabitants.

#### Curiosity to Try

According to the results of the survey, 34.6 percent of the youths questioned have tried or have used some type of drug, 9.6 percent would like to do so, and 54.3 percent reject the idea. The majority of those who had tried drugs did so between the ages of 14 and 18.

Hashish, commonly called "chocolate," with 75.1 percent, is in first place among substances used for the first time. It is followed, among others, by marihuana with a 15.4 percent; "grifa" 3.9 percent; amphetamines, 3.1 percent and so forth. According to what the survey revealed, no one starts with LSD. In the opinion of Dr Colas San Juan, psychiatrist of the pilot outpatient unit of the Red Cross Assisting Service, not everybody who starts to smoke ends up on hard drugs. "Chocolate" he tells us, "is not addictive. Between 3 and 5 percent of those who try drugs end up as drug addicts. And doctors," he commented to us "are somewhat to blame in prescribing pharmaceutical products which develop an addiction. There is no strict control by the administration of the use of drugs," he accused, "since there are products on the market such as Nolotil, Bustay and Tili-trate, which without warnings against addiction, do cause addiction."

Regarding the present use of drugs, a distinction is made between three levels: occasional, habitual and periodic. Sex was also taken into account. In men, 67.6 percent use drugs occasionally, 29.6 percent do so habitually and 2.8 percent periodically, whereas for women, 75.3 percent use narcotics occasionally, 22.5 habitually and 2.2 periodically.

Another of the factors indicative of the use of drugs at the present time is age. Between 12 and 14 years of age habitual use predominates, while starting at 18, in the majority of cases, for both men and women, the use of narcotics is occasional.

Regarding the level of education, the survey shows that the majority of youths initiated into the world of drugs have pursued higher, university studies. Also, those who have had little education make up a large percentage.

To the question, "Could you stop using drugs?" 72.1 percent of the population questioned were not concerned by the question. However, of the rest,

9.3 percent have already stopped using drugs; 12.4 percent replied "I would like to" and 0.2 intends to, and 0.2 replied, "I would stop using drugs if I had help." Of the addicts interviewed, 0.3 percent have been unable to stop using drugs, that is, it has been impossible for them to stop.

However, among those who replied, "I have already stopped," the majority did it between 21 and 24 years of age, which may possibly indicate that the inactivity and unemployment of 12 percent of those surveyed, together with the poor performance of the educational system (in the opinion of 5.7 percent of those questioned) among other causes, lead the adolescent to use psychotropic drugs to escape reality.

#### There Are No Solutions

The sale and trafficking of drugs and the extensive clandestine network of drug traffickers, is the main concern of the authorities in power. In the opinion of Mr Gallego, chief of the Press Office of the Directorate of State Security, the difficulties involved in the drug problem at the present time do not mean that it is in itself unsolvable. "However," he told us, "all segments of society must cooperate in its achievement since an effective prevention campaign at all levels of society is indispensable." Finally, Mr Gallego concluded that there are no short-term solutions.

According to the results of the survey, in 41 percent of cases, a "personal friend" is the person who supplies the drug, 10.3 percent obtain it through their "usual dealer," while 5.8 percent obtain it at bars and night spots. Of the drug addicts, 13.5 percent obtain it "by other means" and 0.4 percent produce it themselves.

If 0.4 percent of the drug addicts interviewed supply themselves, the rest, then, logically, buy it. The following is what Spanish youths spend monthly on drugs: of the students, 77 percent spend less than 1,000 pesetas per month, according to the survey, 16 percent spend less than 2,500 pesetas per month, and 4.6 percent spend less than 5,000. On the other hand, 65.1 percent of all addicts spend less than 1,000 pesetas per month on drugs, 20.9 percent less than 2,500 and 11.6 percent spend less than 5,000 pesetas. It should be pointed out that men spend more money on their drugs than do women.

The data revealed by the section on monthly expenditures, quantities, and occupation are curious and contradictory. Of those persons who "do nothing" 3.3 percent spend more than 10,000 pesetas per month on drugs, 6.9 percent spend less than 10,000 pesetas and 44.8 percent spend less than 2,500 and the remainder less than 1,000 pesetas. To judge by the money spent on drugs, "Could it be that those who 'do nothing' are engaged in their sale?"

#### Use Spreading

As for drugs as a national problem, the vast majority of youths reply to the question, "Do you believe that there is in Spain a real drug problem?" that the problem does exist, and that it is worsening.

Drugs are readily available. This is demonstrated by the ease with which they are obtained. More than three-fourths of the youths questioned answered in the affirmative to the question, "Do you obtain drugs easily?" Those between 18 and 20 years are the ones who experience the least difficulty in obtaining drugs.

Drugs have no class prejudice. The figures indicate that the use of drugs is spreading among the middle and high classes. The children of the well-to-do are easy prey for drugs. They have more than enough time and money and, tired of the gratifications which the consumer society offers them, they search, through drugs, for "artificial paradises." Of the drug addicts interviewed, 24 percent belong to the lower class. The middle class, with 40 percent, together with "high society" (36 percent) are the classes that make up the interclass drug subculture.

The subject of drugs, although much exploited, worn-out and manipulated, continues to be taboo. The communication media do not provide information, the schools do not provide effective instruction--the minister of education is hoping to introduce the subject into the classroom this year--in order to warn the students of the middle schools, the stage at which the state for drugs begins, of the possible risks which the use and abuse of drugs entail.

In this country everything is learned by hearsay. "They say, they tell me..." Actually, friends are the principal source of information regarding drugs. This was the answer of 45 percent of the youths. Others, 15 percent, attribute to the press, the radio and television the knowledge they have on the subject. Parents, relatives and teachers end up looking bad in the survey. Not more than 3 percent of those questioned are of the opinion that these latter give them information on drugs.

A large part of the population surveyed, whether or not addicted, admit that drugs are a means of experiencing new sensations. The search for new experiences, out of curiosity, is the principal reason for the use of drugs. Many use drugs because it is the in-thing to do. On the other hand, personal problems, generational conflict and the lack of juvenile recreational activities, together with a significant increase in juvenile unemployment, are, among other causes, the determining factors which heighten receptivity to drugs.

#### International Congress

Presided by King Don Juan Carlos, the Ninth International Congress on Prevention and Treatment of Drug Addiction is to take place in Madrid from

30 September to 5 October. The Congress, whose Honor Committee is composed of members of the government, is sponsored by the Interministerial Committee for the study of the problems related to the use of drugs, by the Ministry of Culture and the Complutense University of Madrid.

"With this Congress--Maria Jesus Manovel, secretary and chairman of the Interministerial Committee told us--an attempt is being made to bring together the specialists in the field, to join the efforts of the various official and public sectors, in order to exchange experiences, to draw up a series of joint communique and to prepare resolutions."

The meetings, organized by the International Council on the Problems of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction and by the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology of the medical school will be held in the School of Stomatology of the medical school of the Complutense University of Madrid.

Principal Reasons for Drug Use

1. Search for new experiences, curiosity	38.7 percent
2. Personal problems	21.6 percent
3. Attraction of the forbidden	10.0 percent
4. Poor performance of the educational system	5.7 percent
5. Generational conflict	5.4 percent
6. Lack of recreational activities for the young	5.0 percent
7. Increase in unemployment of the young	4.2 percent
8. Lack of police control	1.8 percent
9. Political disillusionment	0.5 percent
10. No reply/Not concerned	7.1 percent

Are Drugs of the Left?

Political ideology	Of all surveyed	Of admitted drug addicts
Extreme right	0.8 percent	0.9 percent
Right	4.9 percent	0.9 percent
Center	7.8 percent	1.9 percent
Left	29.3 percent	19.8 percent
Extreme Left	7 percent	13.2 percent
Politically disillusioned	8.1 percent	22.6 percent
Not interested in politics	23.8 percent	30.2 percent
Undecided/does not know	15.1 percent	6.6 percent
No reply/not concerned	3.1 percent	3.8 percent

This curious table attempts to study the political ideology of all the young people surveyed and, separately, of those who state that they are drug addicts.

The data ascertain that while 13 percent of the children surveyed state that they belong to the right the proportion of drug addicts who state that they belong to the right is less than 4 percent.

The proportion of drug addicts who belong to the left is higher but it is less than the proportion of all surveyed who belong to the left.

The figures are reversed when it comes to the extreme left: 7 percent of all surveyed state that they belong to the extreme left and 13 percent of drug addicts do so.

But the greatest proportion of drug addicts is reached among apolitical youths, the disenchantred or the disillusioned. No less than 50 percent of the admitted drug addicts lack any political illusions.

Do Drugs Allow You To Feel More Free?

	Of all surveyed	Of admitted drug addicts
Much more	11.2 percent	34 percent
Somewhat more	18.9 percent	17.9 percent
A little more	22.6 percent	23.6 percent
Not at all	38.8 percent	23.6 percent
No reply/not concerned	8.4 percent	0.9 percent

It is worth pointing out in regard to this survey that neither those surveyed in general, nor the drug addicts, believe in the power of drugs to give freedom. However, distrust in the freeing power of drugs is 61 percent in all youths surveyed and only 47 percent in drug addicts.

Figures Attest to Increase

Madrid YA in Spanish 7 Oct 79 pp 14, 15

[Excerpts]

1. Number Arrested, Classified As to Whether Spaniards or Foreigners												
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Total	293	380	601	1,249	1,297	1,372	1,948	2,732	2,939	3,354	5,417	8,858
Spaniards	162	226	302	753	781	847	1,246	1,820	2,005	2,460	4,321	7,694
Foreigners	131	154	299	496	516	525	702	912	934	894	1,096	1,166
2. Number of Confiscations												
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
	204	258	347	585	542	538	874	1,222	1,404	1,681	2,725	4,681
3. Substances Confiscated												
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Cannabis (kgm)	377	220	905	587	718	896	3,518	6,023	6,183	5,474	10,529	
Cocaine (grams)	---	---	---	8	1,837	11,458	2,810	581	11,527	14,000	23,000	
LSD (doses)	---	---	23	1,553	1,500	1,525	1,649	7,624	1,813	1,616	---	
Opiates (grams)	---	---	2	81	1,640	785	75	26	333	102	2,000	



4. Substances Confiscated in 1978

Cannabis plants (grams)	115,500
Cannabis seedlings	166
Grifa (grams)	4,133
Hashish (grams)	6,525,768
Heroin (grams)	9,000
Pharmacological substances of similar action (cc)	3,275
Idem (tablets)	1,848
Cocaine (grams)	14,950
LSD (doses)	4,532
Psychotropic drugs (grams)	51,757
Stimulants and tranquilizers	50,337

5. Robberies in Drug Stores

	1975	1976	1977
	5	60	529

6. Age of Initiation Into Drugs

1974 (in percent)

Between 10 and 13	2.20
Between 14 and 16	9.49
Between 17 and 18	30
Between 19 and 21	41
Between 22 and 25	12
Between 26 and 29	3
Over 29	0.55

7. Ages of Those Arrested

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
Under 14	--	--	--	--	1	2	1	--	--
14-15	--	6	17	104	6	22	25	28	14
16-18	5	20	63	--	129	228	321	335	356
19-25	75	310	596	356	716	1,168	1,598	1,698	1,880
26-40	469	394	374	219	436	446	665	752	970
Over 40	--	--	--	--	84	82	122	126	134

8. Ages of Those Arrested in 1978

	Percentage
16-18	19
19-25	56
26-30	15
Over 30	10

9. Professions of Addicts

No profession	24.2
Students	15.3
Workers	27.3
Salaried employees	6.5
Waiters	5.2

10. Economic Level of Addicts

High	1.5
Medium	21.7
Low	44.7
Unknown	32.1

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CSO: 5300

SPAIN

'YA' REPORTS ON SUCCESSFUL POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS

Civil Guard Suspect

Madrid YA in Spanish 14 Oct 79 p 40

[Text] Some 200 tablets of pressed hashish, weighing a total of 75 kg were found in the possession of Jesus Jaime Dominguez Pena, of Orense, 25 years old, and of Placido, Pereira Hermida, of Lucena, 38 years old, who were both detained by the Madrid police.

In the car in which they were, a SEAT 132, license plate M-709-DD, several cardboard boxes were found from different commercial establishments, in the interior of which they had concealed the drug, divided up into packages of eight tablets.

It would appear that the drugs came from Malaga where the men arrested had been, subsequently intending to make their way with the "goods" to Galicia. However, their journey was interrupted when they were on the Andalucia highway; after several days of patient waiting they were intercepted by the Madrid police, stationed at all the accesses to the Spanish capital.

According to the local paper, it is believed that one of those arrested is a Civil Guard corporal of the Fondeo del Puerto Section, of Vigo.

The arrests made in Madrid are related to others made days ago in Galicia where five men were arrested.

They were found with a pistol and several rounds of ammunition as well as a quantity of hashish worth 750,000 pesetas.

Again, police inspectors in Malaga and Madrid, after detaining six Moroccans at Marbella discovered three caches of drugs in the Spanish capital. These, together, weighed 185 kg and were hidden in various apartments in Madrid.

Also confiscated were a number of televisions, radios, stereos, radio-cassettes and a Mercedes automobile, which belongs to one of the men arrested, but they all appear to be ill-gotten goods.

Some 600 Doses Confiscated

Madrid YA in Spanish 14 Oct 79 p 40

[Text] Vitoria--The equivalent of 600 doses of heroin, morphine and cocaine were confiscated from five alleged drug traffickers, arrested over the past few days in Vitoria and Bilbao.

The police only gave out the initials of those arrested. These men are already in prison by order of the judicial authorities, with the exception of one who is possibly a minor.

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CSO: 5300

SPAIN

HASHISH STASH CONFISCATED IN LAS PALMAS

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Oct 79 p 22

[Excerpts] Diego Talavera, Las Palmas--The largest load of smuggled drugs discovered in the Canary Islands, possibly one of the largest hauls seized in Europe, was confiscated by inspectors of the special narcotics unit of Las Palmas, cooperating with the Civil Guard, the National Police and the Military Command of the Navy. All told, they confiscated 5,200 kg, a shipment which was only exceeded by one located 2 years ago in England by the British police, amounting to 8,000 kg of hashish.

The goods were smuggled aboard the British yacht "Algoma" which had been moored for several days at the recreational pier of Alcaravanas beach, in this capital city.

For the time being, there is no exact knowledge as to how the police inspectors learned of the cargo aboard the yacht lying at anchor--although it is suspected that it was through a confidential informant--but what is known is that, once their suspicions seemed well founded, the police boarded the yacht and carefully checked the hold. There they discovered, carefully camouflaged in bags used for shipping Brazilian coffee, a total of 5,200 kg of the drug, wrapped in smaller containers of waterproofed material.

The haul almost certainly comes from Lebanon and is of an uncommon, choice quality hashish which it is believed, once sold on the black market in the United States for which it was destined, would net the incredible sum of 2.6 billion pesetas, that is to say, 500,000 pesetas a kilogram.

Having inspected the yacht, the police proceeded to arrest the whole crew--consisting of three American citizens, a Frenchman and an Italian--which was transferred to the station for questioning by the special narcotics inspectors..

The five people arrested together with the confiscated drugs and the report of the investigations were later handed over to the competent judicial authorities, after the work done by the special narcotics group of the police.

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122

SPAIN

HASHISH CONFISCATED IN BARCELONA

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Sep 79 p 18

[Text] The contraband confiscated at the port of Barcelona last Tuesday amounted to 1,920 kg of hashish. The value of the hashish--the largest load ever confiscated in Barcelona--is 292 million pesetas, although on the black market this figure might well be three times greater.

The hashish will be placed at the disposal of the public health authorities who will order its destruction.

Last Tuesday, after the vessel tied up at the port, the authorities asked for the manifest of the cargo carried in the holds. In checking, the drugs were found in a large crate labelled "personal effects" and consigned to a false consignor. The destination was Montreal (Canada) and they were to be sent to Catherine St, East Moud (sic) Royal.

In both the checking of the vessel, the "Cedor Glory," on which the drugs were smuggled, and the search for the drugs in the sheds of the port, dogs trained to detect narcotics were used. The crates containing the hashish were covered with zinc plates and the top metal containers on the inside were filled with string beans and grease.

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CSO: 5300

SWITZERLAND

HEROIN SMUGGLER GETS PRISON SENTENCE

Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 6 Nov 79 p 19

[Text] On 10 June of this year, a border official at Zurich Airport made an exceptional catch. Two Italian passengers were on Flight SR 305 from Bangkok to Zurich. Hidden in their four large suitcases in a double bottom were more than 11 kg of heroin No 3, "brown sugar," the largest quantity as yet apprehended in the Canton of Zurich. Because of the large quantity, the district attorney asked the Zurich courts for the highest penalty in a drug case so far: he demanded a 13-year jail sentence for 26-year-old Mario Cassiolari, and 8 years for 28-year-old Raffaella Pantania. The court in Buelach, however, did not hand down as stiff a sentence. Its Second Division punished the man with 10 years and the woman with 6 years. The court also ordered deportation for the maximum for a first offense of 15 years.

Feigned Innocence

The court in Buelach is experienced when it comes to criminals trafficking in drugs: it handles all cases uncovered at Zurich Airport. It was unimpressed by the feigned innocence of the woman and by the man's efforts to make his crime appear less severe. The woman insisted that she had no idea what was in the suitcases, the man finally admitted that a certain Joe in Bangkok had asked him to transport merchandise for him to Europe. He had agreed to it just as a favor. At first, he said, he thought that the merchandise was jewelry. Only afterwards did he find out that it was heroin.

The charges against Cassiolari included a second transport. According to key evidence, he had brought heroin from Bangkok to Milan via Zurich in October 1978, just as in June 1979. According to hotel records, he spent at least 4 nights in and near Zurich. It was not possible to present conclusive evidence of criminal activity for the other two times. But there is great suspicion that he trafficked in drugs then also.

Thanks to the excellent investigations by the drug division of the Zurich police, the district attorney was able to produce convincing evidence. He

also relied on reports by the American Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the official authority on drugs in the United States, which has officials in all critical spots of drug traffic, such as Milan and Rome. Accordingly, there can be no doubt that the two accused belong to a well-organized Italian drug ring, and secondly, that they, at least within that organization, belong to the "middle cadre."

Both of them have harmless jobs: he is a plumber, she a housewife. Both of them live in Verona, where her husband operates a sheetmetal business, Cassiolari being an equal partner. The DEA is well acquainted with their friends. For example, the accused woman has rented an apartment to a couple who, in all probability, are dealing in drugs.

With an Airline Ticket on Overland Route to Italy

Suitcases just like those of the accused have been apprehended in Ticino. It is known that they are manufactured near Varese and that they are later equipped with secret compartments by a man who is also known to the police. The fact that the transport of the 11 kg of heroin was scheduled for this particular day shows that nothing is left to chance when it comes to the transport of drugs. This explains the fact that Cassiolari had to pay an additional 5,000 francs, because the plane's tourist class was filled up and the two had to and wanted to travel first class.

The 11 kg of heroin would have been sufficient for 55,000 injections. Because of this large quantity, the great danger to countless people, and for general preventative reasons, the district attorney requested that the court make an example of the two with exemplary punishment. He said that it is no coincidence that drug smuggling from the Far East via Switzerland as stopover is increasing. Although they frequently have airline tickets for the flight between Zurich and Milan, drug smugglers do not use them. They prefer to get to Italy by overland route. At the border they appear to be harmless tourists who have spent their vacation in Switzerland.

The attractive woman apparently considered certain questions put to her in court terribly funny, because she repeatedly burst into laughter. After this sentence she probably stopped laughing.

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CSO: 5300



SWITZERLAND

BRIEFS

POLICE APPREHEND HEROIN DEALER--The Basel County Court sentenced a 23-year-old drug addict to 5 years' penitentiary because of a qualified violation of the drug law. The court found him guilty of dealing in more than 600 grams of heroin. The court gave special consideration to the 32-year-old girl friend of the accused, who mostly helped him to smuggle the drug into the country, because of her dependence on him and punished her with an 18-month prison sentence, as well as a 400-franc fine. The accused, who comes from the Upper Basel area and who has had drug contacts since his 13th year, resold approximately 10 kg of hashish and 500 grams of hashish oil between 1975 and 1977 for a Basel colleague on a commission basis. Finally, the accused also "entered" the heroin market, as he stated before the court, because buyers had paid him with heroin instead of cash and he had set up a real import business. First he purchased the "stuff" from colleagues; since the end of 1978 he had bought it himself in Amsterdam. He sold a large part of it in Bern, Zurich and the Basel area. [Text] [Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 6 Nov 79 p 19] 9328

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

FIVE ACCUSED IN DRUG MURDER--Seven men and two women, who face murder, drugs and conspiracy charges arising from the discovery of a handless corpse in a Lancashire quarry three weeks ago, were yesterday remanded in custody by Chorley magistrates. Five men charged with murdering Christopher Martin Johnstone, a New Zealander, and conspiring together and with others to murder him are: Alexander Sinclair, of Strafford Court, Kensington; Andrew Maher, 26, of Leyland, Lancs; James Smith, 27, of Livingstone, West Lothian; Frederick Russell, 38, of Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town; and Keith Kirby, 26, of Preston. All nine are charged with conspiring to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act. The other four are Leila Barclay, 48, and Jack Barclay, 26, both of Brier Close, Finchley; Errol Hincksman, 31, of The High Road, Leyton; and Karen Soich, 23, a New Zealand barrister, of the same address as Sinclair. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Nov 79 p 19]

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END