

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/08: CIA-RDP82-00850R000200050059-0

29 FEBRUARY 1980

(FOUO 9/80)

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JPRS L/8957

29 February 1980

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 9/80)

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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BURMA

NARCOTICS SQUADS UNITE TO STEM DRUG FLOW FROM 'GOLDEN TRIANGLE'

London REUTERS in English 0308 GMT 19 Feb 80

[Article by Francis Daniel]

[Text] Singapore, 18 Feb, REUTER--Narcotics squads here are combining with neighboring countries to fight an expected flow of drugs from the "Golden Triangle," the world's biggest opium producing area.

A bumper harvest--totalling about 800 tons of illicit raw opium--is expected this season from the jungle-clad border region straddling Burma, Thailand and Laos, according to Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) officials.

Opium production in the Golden Triangle fell sharply last year because of a severe drought but the situation has changed drastically after good rains this season, the officials said.

The main opium harvesting period in the region is usually from January to March. But the officials, quoting Thai intelligence sources, said some of the harvested raw opium was already in the process of being refined into heroin and morphine before shipment to lucrative Western markets in the coming months.

Most of the underground opium refineries are in remote jungle areas along the Thai-Burmese border and not easily accessible to law enforcement agencies of the two countries, the officials said.

"It is a kind of no man's land where the opium factories function in relative safety," one official added.

The illicit cultivation of opium poppies and their harvest are largely under the control of rebel hill tribesmen and remnants of the former nationalist Chinese Kuomintang army who find the drug trade a good source of revenue.

Well-organized international syndicates operating from various centers in Southeast Asia distribute the refined opium through an elaborate network almost encircling the globe.

But officials here said the five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)--Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia--were coordinating their efforts to break the "Asian connection."

"We have 'hot lines' to all ASEAN countries and Hong Kong. We also cooperate with Interpol which gives us daily movements of drug syndicates all over the world," one official said.

But all these efforts, including tough new laws prescribing the death penalty for drug trafficking, appear to have had only limited success so far.

Officials here admit that drugs were still finding their way to the West through a number of transit points in the region--Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore.

They said, however, there were clear indications that some of the big-time drug operators from Hong Kong and Singapore had shifted their base of operation to Western cities.

Singapore also is gradually losing its importance as a drug transit center following the introduction of new drug laws under which anyone carrying more than 15 grams (half an ounce) of heroin can be condemned to death, the officials said.

Five people have been hanged here since the new laws came into effect four years ago--three of them Malaysians and the other two Singaporeans.

A number of other foreigners, including Americans and Australians, also were charged under the new laws but escaped capital punishment because the heroin content found in the contraband they were carrying was less than 15 grams.

Malaysia and Thailand also have introduced the death penalty for drug trafficking. Anyone caught with heroin in Malaysia can be flogged as well.

In recent years, some drug traffickers in Thailand were executed by the firing squad under executive orders. In Malaysia about 20 people had been sentenced to death for trafficking in drugs, but no executions have been carried out so far.

Southeast Asian countries are threatened by spreading addiction among their own people. And the expected increase in the flow of drugs from

the Golden Triangle could make the situation worse, officials here said.

A Malaysian minister said recently that drug addiction within the country was graver than the communist insurgency now confined mainly to the Thai-Malaysian border.

The number of drug addicts in Malaysia had swollen to 300,000 among a population of 10 million, according to the minister.

The total number of drug addicts in Singapore is estimated to be less than 10,000. But narcotic officials said the drug problem could not be eradicated completely in Singapore.

It has the third largest harbor in the world, an international airport with a turn-over of more than a million passengers a year and a causeway linking the island with the Malaysian peninsula.

A number of drug syndicates have been smashed in Singapore and elsewhere in Southeast Asia during the past several years but the opium trail from the Golden Triangle was still very much active, a senior official said.

This island state is strengthening both its customs and intelligence work, he added.

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

HASHISH CONCEALED IN GUITAR--A foreigner, identified as Verrips Marinus Adrianus, was arrested on Friday last from Karachi airport with 14 kilos of hashish oil in his possession. The accused, who was going to Los Angeles, had concealed the hashish in a costly Guitar. He said he had bought the contraband from Afghanistan from where he came to Karachi via Quetta. According to custom authorities Verrips had earlier visited Pakistan four times under fictitious names. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 5 Feb 80 p 5]

RS 50 CRORE CHARAS SEIZURE--The CIA police while patrolling on Tuesday arrested a truck driver Abbas and his accomplice Yar Hasan and recovered from their possession 1,850 kilogram contraband charas worth about Rs 50 crore. According to the details SP and DSP CIA after getting information that a gang is involved in smuggling out the charas formed a four-member team comprising Inspector Mohammad Fareed SI Shamsad Khan SI Anwar Zeb and ASI Abdul Jaleel for investigation. The team while patrolling Super Highway on Tuesday night caught a truck near Octroi post and during the checking found 1;850 kilogram contraband charas valued about Rs 50 crore in the international market. A case under Section 3/4 of Islamic Law Ordinance has been registered against the accused and investigation is in progress.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 31 Jan 80 p 1]

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

DETECTIVE ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH COCAINE TRAFFICKING

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Jan 80 p 15

[Text] Early yesterday morning on Morro do Andaraí, agents of the P-2 (Secret Service), 6th BPM [Military Police Battalion], arrested detective Osmar Severino Ribeiro (Osmar Negao) and three other men, alleged by the police to be traffickers. Taken in the act at the drug sales point of Edson Barros Rainha, who was also arrested, the prisoners had 82 grams of cocaine (valued at 100,000 cruzeiros) and a .38-caliber revolver, No. 983166, in their possession.

Osmar Negao is implicated in several investigations, and has been suspended from police duty in the Diverse Situations Department of the Public Safety Secretariat. In 1975 his name appeared on a list of corrupt police officers who provided protection for trafficker Milton Goncalves Thiago, "Cabecao," on Morro do Faz-Quem-Quer, in Rocha Miranda.

A few days earlier, together with officers of the 20th Police Precinct [DP] in Grajaú, agents had attempted to raid the "smoke hole" of trafficker Edson Barros Rainha and his brother Toinho. Day before yesterday, the police received an anonymous phone call reporting the arrival of a large quantity of drugs and decided to go up the hill.

The police planned the assault for dawn, when they would be less noticeable. Reaching the "smoke hole" in one of the alleys on the hill, they surprised six men, two of whom managed to escape. Meanwhile, Osmar Nagao attempted to divert the agents' attention, identifying himself as a police officer, while another trafficker unsuccessfully tried to hide the cocaine, which was in a plastic bag. Osmar Negao said he had only been having a conversation with friends, and was not aware the cocaine was there.

Who They Are

Taken to the 20th DP, the prisoners were identified as Gilberto de Oliveira, single, aged 25, of 496 Rua Andaraí; Luis Carlos dos Santos, married, aged 37, of 1733 Joao Vicente Road; Edson de Barros Rainha, single, aged 32, of 959 Rua Leopoldo; and Osmar Severino Ribeiro, "Osmar Negao," single, aged 48, of 340 Rua Aracaribis.

Edson's and Osmar Negao's records are on file in the Narcotics Division Delegacy, and the trafficker was being sought for drug trafficking on Morro de Andarai, Morro do Borel and several other locations. He operated his sales point with his brothers Toinho and Tico, until the latter was killed during a robbery, by his own victim.

The detective was named in the investigation of Cabecao, who stated on his arrest that he had paid 60 police officers every month for protection. The detective was also arrested two years ago as he came down from Morro do Borel, after P2-2 agents with binoculars had observed him talking with traffickers and taking a check. On his arrest, he could not explain the reason for the 60,000-cruzeiro check, and answered to an inquiry in the 19th DP.

Weeping copiously and claiming he had nothing to do with the drug that was seized, Luis Carlos dos Santos said he was the treasurer of the Sports Writers' Association of Rio de Janeiro and that he worked at Maracana, but he could not substantiate this.

6363
CSO: 4401

BRAZIL

ATTORNEY, TRAFFICKER ARRESTED WITH MARIHUANA, COCAINE

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 80 p 15

[Text] Attorney Lea Martins Barros, aged 28, was arrested yesterday at 1300 hours as he was leaving the house of No 790 Ladeira do Tabajaras, in Copacabana. He was in possession of 13 grams of cocaine and 4 marihuana cigarettes, acquired from trafficker Jose Carlos Lourenco de Souza, aged 29, operator of a "smoke hole" at that location and arrested with Barros.

The pair was picked up in the attorney's Chevette, license no RJ-D2-00-55. The marihuana was found in the glove compartment and the cocaine was under the carpeting. The two men were taken to the 12th DP [Police Precinct] in Copacabana by officers of the 18th BPM [Military Police Battalion]. As of 2100 hours they still had not been booked, because of the large number of requests that the charge be dropped.

Client

Patrolmen Paulo, Viano, Citonio and Santana, Radio Patrol 54/0101, of the 19th BPM, had been staking out the house at 790 Ladeira dos Tabajaras, where girls and boys were often seen entering and leaving after a short time. Yesterday, the patrolmen observed the Chevette drive up with the attorney, who entered the house and came out accompanied by Jose Carlos.

The patrolmen made the arrest before the car could leave, and took the pair to the 12th DP. At the precinct, Barros said he had gone to the house because the trafficker was his client, but he could not explain why the drugs were concealed in two places in the Chevette.

Within an hour after the arrest, Candido de Oliveira, counselor of the OAB [Brazilian Bar Association], arrived at the 12th DP to assist Barros, and attorneys Arthur Levigne and Joao Carlos Castelar came to his defense. The three attorneys and the police would not allow the prisoners to be photographed or interviewed.

Attorney Levigne said "it was not right for the press to name a member of the bar as a trafficker or an addict." Outside the police station, Private Santos said he had heard several police officers apologizing to individuals who phoned the 12th DP, and explaining that it was impossible to drop the charge since the press already knew of the incident.

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CSO: 4401

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

NEW DRUG USED IN RECIFE--Recife--The Narcotics Division has begun to investigate the possibility that a new type of drug--based on a garden fertilizer--is being used in combination with perfume. Although milder and of shorter duration, its effects are said to be similar to those of cocaine. At the beginning of the week, police arrested three drug addicts charged with having kidnaped and corrupted three minors. They admitted to using a chemical compound prepared with a green-colored plant stimulant--sold freely in commercial establishments. The product is quite inexpensive and, according to the addicts, has gained wide acceptance, mainly because it costs less than marihuana. Merchants say there is only one green product, which costs 50 cruzeiros per 200 grams, but they have not recorded an increase in sales. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Jan 80 p 15] 6362

FRG SEEKS TRAFFICKER'S EXTRADITION--Brasilia--Yesterday the Federal Supreme Court [STF] received an urgent appeal from the FRG for the extradition of Fakl Herman Werner, who is accused of trafficking in drugs, including heroin and marihuana. Werner, aged 39, is already under preventive arrest in Brasilia, and the Federal Police are considering releasing him to the STF. Fakl Werner has been sentenced to prison twice, the first time in 1972, when German police found 8.5 kilograms of hashish in his car. He was carrying them in a leather pouch encased in the front seat and outfitted with 45 linen pockets. He was sentenced to three years in prison and paid a 5,000-mark fine. Released after serving two years, he was arrested again in 1975 and again convicted. Placed on probation, he fled to Brazil. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Jan 80 p 8] 6362

THREE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Charged with selling cocaine in the halls of the Court, Luis Antonio Guedes da Cruz, aged 30, a file clerk for the Fourth Family Court, and floor polisher Newton Ferreira, aged 43, were arrested yesterday afternoon by three inspectors of the Narcotics Department, where the two men are being held incommunicado. Also arrested on suspicion of involvement was Antonio Alvaro Sacramento, aged 22, a coffee vendor at the court. Police officer Jorge Mendes said that at the time of his arrest Newton was delivering three packets of cocaine to Luis

Antonio and was carrying 14 more packets in a sack. One of the officers reported that the arrest was the result of an accusation, and that he "had been keeping an eye on Luis Antonio in the hope of surprising him." Antonio Alvaro was arrested because he was present during the exchange. The Narcotics Division has no previous record on the two men directly involved. According to officer Mendes, however, Newton said he had already been investigated for trafficking under the terms of Article 281 of the Penal Code. The packets of cocaine have been sent to the Criminology Institute for analysis. The Police added that Newton also had some marijuana leaves in his bag. They are attempting to establish a link between the two men and drug trafficking rings. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO In Portuguese 9 Jan 80 p 10] 6262

CSO: 4401

MEXICO

CUSTOMS GUARD IMPLICATED IN MARIHUANA SMUGGLING

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 10 Jan 80 Sec D p 7

[Text] Statements were taken yesterday in the second district court from guard Rolando Garcia Hinojosa and his codefendant, Efren Gonzalez Olivares, alias "El Menso," in connection with the charges brought against them by the federal prosecutor.

The former denied having engaged in drug trafficking, while the latter admitted his guilt, possibly for the purpose of bearing the full brunt of the law and releasing his codefendant, Rolando Garcia Hinojosa, of all guilt.

Garcia Hinojosa was accused of having committed a crime against health in the degree of marihuana transportation, and Efren Gonzalez was charged with being presumed guilty of the same crime, but in the degrees of possession and transportation of cannabis indica.

The two presumed drug traffickers were released from jail yesterday morning, and taken before Cayetano Hernandez Valencia.

Garcia Hinojosa admitted to knowing his codefendant, but maintained that, on the day of the incidents for which they were arrested, Gonzalez Olivares had asked him to take him to the "Los Alamos" farm to pick up a bag of dirty laundry, and that he did not think that it was to pick up marihuana, claiming that he had never been involved in the drug business.

Gonzalez Olivares, for his part, confirmed the statement that he had made at the agency of the Federal Public Ministry.

The customs guard and Gonzalez Olivares were arrested on 3 January by federal agents who were making an inspection tour of an outlet leading to Miguel Aleman.

In the 1979 Ford pickup truck driven by Rolando Garcia Hinojosa, the federal agents found 8 kilograms of marihuana. Then they went to a farm, where they seized an additional 20 kilograms of the same drug.

Upon making his statement in the office of the state prosecutor, Efren Gonzalez Olivares said that, on 10 December 1979, at a ranch owned by him, they had unloaded 2,500 kilograms of marihuana purchases in Acayuca, Veracruz, and Matias Romero, Oaxaca. They carried it in a trailer truck to the border in Tamaulipas, and shipped most of the drug to the American side across the river between the towns of Los Angeles and Guardados de Abajo.

Tomorrow, Friday, Hernandez Valencia will decide upon the legal status of the two individuals in custody.



Efren Gonzalez Olivares, alias "El Menso," was photographed while leaving the premises of the second district court, where he made his preliminary statement.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

MEMBERS OF NOTORIOUS DRUG TRAFFICKING RING CAPTURED

Court Action Initiated

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 15 Jan 80 p 8

[Text] The members of the powerful drug trafficking ring disbanded last Saturday by the Federal Judicial Police will be placed at the disposal of the first penal court this morning, at the latest; and the latter will act on behalf of the Federal Court to make the first study of the preliminary investigation and to issue the orders for official imprisonment. Investigations of the same case are being continued both here and on the American side, by the DEA.

Considerable influence was being used yesterday to have some of the drug traffickers released immediately. A great deal of pressure is being exerted by high-ranking personages in an attempt to benefit those individuals, who have been deeply involved in the drug traffic for many years, a business which enabled them to become wealthy.

The commanders of the Federal Judicial Police and the agency of the Federal Public Ministry both agreed yesterday in stating that, despite all the pressure that is imposed and the influence being used, all those in custody are too deeply implicated, chiefly because the corpus delicti has been obtained, namely, the vehicles in which they were transporting the drugs, and many of those individuals were arrested on the same site where the drugs were located.

Upon being questioned about this case yesterday, Alfredo Olivares Osuna said that the agency of the Public Ministry worked overtime, so as to oversee everything and not allow any pressure, pursuing the preliminary investigation without any interruption.

He noted that those in custody, including the ringleader, Melquiades Sosa Cantu, made their preliminary statements at dawn on Sunday, after which the group was transferred to the prison under heavy guard.

This made it possible for the preliminary investigation to be nearly completed by yesterday afternoon; and, this morning at the latest, the eight individuals under arrest will be at the disposal of the first penal judge, Ruben Gonzalez Chapa.

The prosecutor stated: "They have all confessed to their drug trafficking activity; the main vehicles that they had used to transport the drugs were confiscated from them; and the corpus delicti has been obtained. They have no outlet; they are caught."

He said that some of the vehicles might be returned later, but that the judge would decide on this, although it would take many months for this to occur. As for the individuals in custody, he said that it would be extremely difficult for them to procure their release.

Moreover, the commander of the Federal Judicial Police who carried out the action to arrest this ring of narcos said that it had been proven that Mr Melquiades Sosa Cantu was running the ring, although his son had also appeared as chief during recent months. He said that both were completely implicated.

He also remarked that the probe would continue, and that it was quite likely that other individuals involved in this ring would be arrested.

Meanwhile, on the American side, the antidrug department, DEA, is continuing its own series of investigations to apprehend the persons there who were the contacts of the Melquiades Sosa drug traffickers, both father and son.

Trafficker Protected From Transfer

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 17 Jan 80 p 16

[Text] The drug trafficker and double murderer Melquiades Sosa Cantu petitioned for and obtained yesterday protection from the federal court so as not to be transferred to the La Loma penitentiary in Nuevo Laredo. Melquiades Sosa took this action following rumors that he might possibly be transferred to Nuevo Laredo for investigation concerning other cases of drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, considerable influence is being used in an attempt to procure the release of the head of the drug trafficking ring as soon as possible.

The protection against the transfer was granted yesterday morning by the second district judge, after which notices were sent to the various police and judicial offices in Matamoros regarding the benefit which had been granted to the arrested drug trafficker, Melquiades Sosa Cantu.

The notices also state that this benefit does not in any way preclude investigations carried out in the case for which he was arrested.

It was learned that Sosa Cantu decided to obtain protection against a transfer to the La Loma penitentiary because he feared that this would

occur at any moment; since, the day before yesterday, there were many rumors afoot that the head of the drug trafficking ring was going to be moved elsewhere to be investigated in connection with many other marihuana shipments seized at various times.

Sosa Cantu fears that, if he is taken to Nuevo Laredo, he may be questioned more closely by the regional commander, Manuel Espindola, and his participation in many more drug trafficking cases may be discovered. It is said that this criminal leader had been operating with his ring for over 10 years, although in former times he had operated in the drug traffic as a mere "mule;" and even when he was in jail for murder, he was identified as the one controlling the drug traffic inside the municipal prison.

The State Judicial Police and the Preventive Police have known about the illegal activity of Melquiades Sosa Cantu and his relatives for a long time, but no one dared to touch him, because he was protected by various officials and powerful individuals in this town.

It should be noted that, exactly a year ago, Federal Judicial Police agents under orders from Benito Estrada Villagomez conducted several investigations in which they discovered that Melquiades Sosa had formed a drug trafficking ring with various relatives.

At the time, only one person was arrested, but the probe was halted after highly influential persons charged that while in custody he had been beaten by the Federal Judicial Police.

Nevertheless, the Federal Judicial Police slowly continued their constant probe until, last Saturday morning, they managed to capture nearly all the members of that drug trafficking Mafia controlled by Melquiades Sosa Cantu, who has not been helped thus far by any of the influence and protection which he has enjoyed.

It was also reported that, possibly today, Melquiades Sosa and his seven drug trafficking accomplices may make their preliminary statement before the first penal judge, Ruben Gonzalez Chapa, will will act on behalf of the federal court.

Details on Ring's Activities

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 18 Jan 80 p i0

[Text] The drug trafficking ring led by Melquiades Sosa Cantu made so much money in its activities that its members paid cash for the late-model vehicles which they purchased recently. Also, in the last marihuana purchasing transaction which they made, they paid a total of 330,000 pesos in cash.

The foregoing was learned from the questioning to which both the drug trafficking chief, Melquiades Sosa Cantu, and the members of ring, were subjected; all of whom had become very wealthy in a short period of time. Some

of them may possibly have been in the business for about 10 years, while Melquiades Sosa Cantu had spent far longer in it.

According to the probe conducted by the Federal Judicial Police, about a month ago one of the members of the narco ring bought a 1980 Ford pickup truck in the town of Harlingen which cost nearly 400,000 pesos, a sum which was paid in cash.

Other vehicles had also been purchased previously, but in the same manner; thereby indicating the large amounts of money which that ring had available, as a result of its illegal activity.

They confessed that they carried only small shipments, weighing from 200 to 400 kilograms as a maximum; but the trips were very close together, and hence their economic power rose at a fast pace.

The Federal Judicial Police noted that this is one of the heaviest blows against the drug traffic in recent months, since the entire ring was broken up, although some accomplices were not captured.

According to the Federal Judicial Police, "Arrests were made ranging from the chief to the mere loader of marihuana, and it is difficult to accomplish something like this." They added that it is difficult because, on many occasions, only one or two persons can be caught, and the rest of a ring manages to escape.

The Federal Police commander, Victor Manuel Martinez Guerra, stated that, fortunately, precautions were taken in the operations at the Barranquitas farm, owned by Melquiades Sosa Cantu, where he and most of his accomplices were apprehended.

It was also noted that the action was so swift that none of the drug traffickers had an opportunity to escape to the American side.

Charges Denied, Abuse Claimed

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 19 Jan 80 p 8

[Text] The eight members of the drug trafficking ring recently disbanded by the Federal Judicial Police made statements yesterday before the first penal judge, Ruben Gonzalez Chapa, telling him that they knew nothing about the marihuana shipment that was seized from them last week.

Those individuals, advised by their defense attorney, stated that they had been subjected to abuse by the federal agents; but, from all appearances, they are attempting to go free at all cost, by using a series of ruses.

Those who made their preliminary statements to the first penal judge yesterday were the chief of the drug trafficking ring, Melquiades Sosa Cantu,

and Melquiades Sosa Rios, Maria de la Luz Torres Alvarado, Humberto and Mario Sosa Campos, Alberto Guadalupe Garza Atkinson, Antonio Silva Vazquez and Alberto Martillo Lizardi.

All of these individuals, some of whom have long-standing records as drug traffickers, made a full confession of their participation in this illegal activity to the federal prosecutor, Alfredo Olivares Osuna; but, when in court, on the other hand, they brought up a series of questions in an attempt to shirk the blame.

However, with the skillful intervention of the penal judge, Ruben Gonzalez Chapa, as well as the questioning to which they were subjected in that probe by Alfredo Olivares Osuna, who acted as assistant prosecutor, the drug traffickers embarked upon a series of contradictions which will surely prove detrimental to them in the trial to which they will be brought.

Among the contradictions of the arrested individual, Antonio Silva Vazquez, is the fact that he claimed to have bought the 1979 Mexican model Dodge pickup truck in Mexico City, for the sum of 160,000 pesos, whereas its price there is over 300,000 pesos, and even more because he admitted having bought it from a dealer.

Also, Antonio Silva claimed not to know the Sosa family, and said that he had been given the 200-liter tanks found on his truck by an unidentified person from San Fernando.

The head of the drug trafficking ring, Melquiades Sosa Cantu, cynically stated that he did not know that the marihuana shipment seized from them was located in one of the buildings on his farm.

For their part, his relatives, Melquiades Sosa Rios and Humberto and Mario Sosa Campos said that they did not know the owner of the drugs, because they had been placed in charge of them.

The other drug traffickers claimed that they had been forced to admit to being such, since they were tortured by the Federal Police; but they did not show any traces of that torture.

Moreover, yesterday afternoon, the federal prosecutor, Alfredo Olivares Osuna, stated that, despite the specious arguments used by the drug traffickers in custody, their crime is the same, and they will have to pay for it in prison. The proceedings involving the preliminary statements lasted about 10 hours.



Drug trafficker Melquiades Sosa Cantu sought and obtained protection from the federal court yesterday so as not to be transferred to another prison. Simultaneously, considerable influence was being wielded in an attempt to release him from jail.



The leading members of Melquiades Sosa Cantu's drug trafficking ring, namely, his son, Melquiades Sosa Rios, and his nephews, Mario and Humberto Sosa Campos, will have to appear before the first penal court today to make their preliminary statements.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

MARIHUANA SMUGGLER GIVEN SEVEN YEAR PRISON SENTENCE

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 16 Jan 80 p 12

[Text] It was announced yesterday that a 7-year prison sentence was imposed on the drug trafficker Carlos Martinez, alias "La Pingua," for crimes against health, whereas he no longer has any problem in connection with the death of Pedro del Fierro Gonzalez and the theft of launch engines.

It was stated that all that is required is that the Associated Court of Monterrey confirm the sentence, which will occur at any moment.

It was also learned that the defense for Carlos Martinez, alias "La Pingua," or "El Manitas," will contest the sentence, in an attempt to have that individual released on bail.

The defenders of the aforementioned individual under arrest are doing everything possible to have the sentence nullified so as to procure his release.

"La Pingua" has already spent about 7 months in the local jail, after having been arrested by forces of the Federal Judicial Police then under the command of Gerardo de Avila, who caught him sending several launch engines across the mouth of the river.

Upon being subjected to intensive questioning, "La Pingua" confessed that he had been sending shipments of marihuana to the American side.

There was also a warrant for his arrest because he was identified as the owner of a shipment of marihuana which was seized about 4 years ago.

In addition, a warrant for his arrest was pending for having killed Pedro del Fierro Gonzalez with several gunshots in an incident which occurred 4 and a half years ago, inside the "La Posta" bar, at 6th and Hernan Cortez.

In connection with that murder, "La Pingua" posted bail through Raul Garza Trevino in the second penal court. He was also released insofar as the launch engine smuggling was concerned; but it was reported that he would have to serve a 7-year jail term in the case wherein he was cited as the owner of a marihuana shipment.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

WARDEN ACQUITTED IN ESCAPE--Yesterday, Daniel Reyes Torres, former warden in Ciudad Acuna, was released at the order of the associated eighth circuit court with headquarters in Torreon, Coahuila, which studied his case since he had been held for trial for the crime of the escape of convicts. Daniel Reyes was arrested by the Federal Judicial Police officer, Iram Giner, after it had been learned that the warden allowed the convict Gabriel Zapata Flores, alias "El Chino," who has been convicted of the crime of drug trafficking, to leave the prison. The associated eighth circuit court was of the opinion that there was not sufficient evidence against the former warden, because although it was true that the convict left the prison with the warden's consent, it is likewise true that he returned there. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 15 Jan 80 Sec B p 1] 2909

COAHUILA PEYOTE PLANTATION DESTROYED--Federal agents located and destroyed a hallucogenic mushroom plantation on a site known as "Las Tapas," in the municipality of Sabinas, Coahuila. The operation took place last Thursday, after federal agents detailed to this border port received a complete report on the production of peyote in that area. The investigation began a few days ago and, yesterday morning, the headquarters in which Manuel Espindola Martinez is chief, announced the results of the raid made on the "Las Tapas" farm on the "El Progreso" communal lands in the municipality of Sabinas, Coahuila. According to the Federal Judicial Police, the plantation covered an expanse of 22 by 55 meters, with a density of from two to three cactuses per square meter. The federal officers requested instruction from the coordinating agency for the antidrug campaign in the northeast zone, and Alfredo Aaron Juarez Jimenez issued order to destroy the hallucinogenic mushrooms after first obtaining some samples which will be used as part of the pertinent preliminary penal investigation. The Federal Judicial Police did not reveal whether any individuals were arrested in the course of this action. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 12 Jan 80 Sec D p 4] 2909

ARMED DRUG TRAFFICKER HELD--Maria Rios Ayala, aged 35, was held for trial by Miguel Conde Camacho, agent of the Federal Public Ministry, in the district court of this town, for crimes against health in the degree of drug possession and distribution, as well as carrying firearms. According to

information obtained by EL SOL DE SINALOA, the woman was found to be carrying in her belongings, in separate places, the sums of 22,500, 10,000 and 6,000 pesos, presumably the result of cocaine sales. That drug was found in her possession at the time of her arrest by agents of the Federal Judicial Police. Both the drugs and the 22-caliber pistol being carried by Maria Rios Ayala, as well as the aforementioned sums of money, were confiscated by the police and submitted as evidence against her; and, therefore, upon being questioned by the social representative, the woman made a statement confessing to the aforementioned crimes. The head of the Public Ministry stated that when the presumed drug trafficker was placed at the disposal of the first district court in Sinaloa, she was taken to the facilities of the State Social Rehabilitation Institute, where she will remain until her legal status has been determined. Finally, Conde Camacho noted that, in view of the overwhelming evidence, and the confession made by the accused, the preliminary investigation was made quickly, since there were no obstacles to it. He said that he considered it fitting to turn the case over to the competent authorities, so that they may hand down a decision regarding the offense. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 17 Jan 80 p 8] 2909

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--Yesterday, the federal judge of the second district court, Eduardo Aguilar, assigned to this town, began studying several sentences that he must sign within a few days, including that of Gilberto Lopez Rivera, an individual convicted of the crime of marihuana trafficking in the degree of possession of 2,800 kilograms of the harmful grass. The report on the foregoing stated that the incidents which gave rise to these proceedings occurred a few days ago, when Ruben Fonseca was arrested, while Gilberto Lopez escaped, and both Paulino Lopez and Jesus Alberto Lopez were captured. The latter pair later escaped, and are fugitives from justice; while Gilberto Lopez was caught, and steps were taken to sentence Ruben Fonseca. In their statements, they all agreed in identifying Gilberto as the owner of the drugs; and his sentence is due to be issued within the next few days. The drugs were seized on a farm located near the municipality of Nueva Rosita, where the cannabis was concealed in the cellar of the farmhouse, in 200-liter drums. It was ascertained that the charges against Gilberto Lopez are very serious, because he was reported to have been engaged in illegal marihuana trafficking for a long time. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 16 Jan 80 Sec B p 1] 2909

CSO: 5330

VENEZUELA

MARGARITA SAID TO BE NEW TRANSSHIPMENT POINT

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 10 Jan 80 pp 1-18

[Text] The town of Margarita benefits least from the free port and yet there are rings made up of Venezuelans and foreigners and minorities which have been favored by the measure.

This allegation was made by Bishop of Margarita Msgr Tulio Chirivella, who analyzed the island's current situation at the request of the reporter.

Msgr Chirivella said that although the free port has brought benefits in some areas, it has also created serious problems. Along those lines he revealed what in his opinion were the benefits and then pointed out the negative aspects.

He stated that previously there was a shortage of people on the island, for they were forced to emigrate to the mainland because of a shortage of work or study opportunities.

With the economic growth it has been possible to increase education and besides the nucleus of the Universidad del Oriente, there is the Technological Institute of the Sea, the La Salle Foundation, and almost every district has a high school and other school facilities. Sources of work have been created and the town has been given services, which has slowed down immigration. This is the positive aspect.

"The problem arises from the fact that when the area was first declared a free zone and then a free port, no control mechanisms were created, nor were many aspects which would later be negative for the town taken into account," said the bishop.

"This is why the Margarita people have benefitted the least. The store employees earn very low salaries. The free port brought us drugs and crime and people who are not from Margarita are now attempting to impose casinos on us; we are categorically opposed to this.

"Margarita has become a transshipment point for drug traffic," the bishop said, obviously worried.

So, yes, we defend the free port which has brought us great benefits, but at the same time it has brought us great problems."

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VENEZUELA

COCAINE SEIZED, THREE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 4 Jan 80 pp 2-7

[Text] Three presumed drug traffickers were arrested by agents of the Anti-Narcotics Division yesterday, and according to an authorized spokesman for the Technical Judicial Police, the cocaine seized from them was estimated to be worth 200,000 bolivars.

The announcement was made by Chief of Police Carlos Jimenez Lopez, who identified the suspected drug traffickers as follows:

Ramon Alberto Palma Belandria, age 29; Marino Jose Guerrero Marquina, 25; and Jesus Alfredo Maldonado Borjas, 27.

"The cocaine," said Jimenez Lopez, "was in vials, cigarettes, papers and plastic bags."

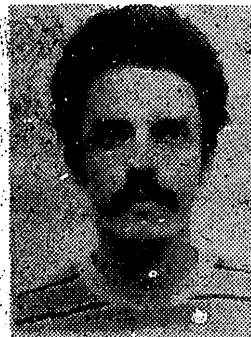
In a raid made on one of the suspect's homes, in the community of El Marques, Naiguata Street, the detectives found cocaine hidden in the kitchen and behind the drapes.



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Ramon Alberto Palma Belandria. (Foto Venezolano).



Marino Jose Guerrero Marquina. (Foto Venezolano).



Jesus Alfredo Maldonado Borjas. (Foto Venezolano).

AUSTRIA

BRIEFS

DRUG RING UNCOVERED--Vienna police arrested 15 drug dealers, most of them of Iranian nationality, who in the past 6 months have brought an estimated amount of 600 grams of heroine to Vienna, corresponding to a black market value of about 1.8 million schillings. [AU081300 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 8 Feb 80 AU]

CSO: 5300

BELGIUM

DRUG ENFORCEMENT HEAD ARRESTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Brussels LE SOIR in French 23 Jan 80 pp 1, 4

[Article by Rene Haquin]

[Text] The head of the National Drug Bureau (the equivalent of the former American Bureau of Narcotics), gendarmerie Maj Leon Francois, 42, was arrested on Saturday and placed in solitary confinement, after being interrogated at the gendarmerie for two days. The staff of the gendarmerie officially confirmed the news on Monday.

In the same affair an Antwerp civil servant in the Criminal Information Administration (better known by the initials BIC) was also arrested. Several other gendarmes of the National Drug Bureau (BND) were interrogated and confined to the gendarmerie. One of them, Non-Commissioned Officer De Cuyper, was also placed under warrant for his arrest. Two other non-commissioned officers were confined.

Maj Francois' offices at the gendarmerie's general staff headquarters, at his home and in the unmarked house where his sections work, were searched; the search resulted in the seizure of various documents and drug samples.

Maj Francois is in solitary until Tuesday afternoon. The sole charge against him concerns "narcotics traffic, with the circumstance that the infraction constitutes an act of participation in the principal or secondary activity of a partnership, as author or co-author."

However, it has been known since last year that an investigation had begun into the activities of the BND. Maj Francois was first heard in 1979 within the gendarmerie itself, at the highest level, by Gen Beaurir himself. It was suggested to him that he resign his office, but the officer refused to do so.

Last fall Maj Francois told us of the difficulties encountered in the fight against drug traffickers (see the drug dossier in LE SOIR for 8 November). In his view, traditional methods no longer make it possible for society to be effectively protected. Inevitably, to remain effective, his services were

sometimes out of balance with the legal provisions in effect in Belgium.

The investigation begun in late 1979 resulted in January in new interrogations (see LE SOIR for 12 January] and a hearing on the affair.

Since 1974 the BND has been asking the staff of the gendarmerie for funds with which to purchase drugs in order to "flush" traffickers as one flushes game. There was a first "advance" of 1,500,000, which was to make possible the dismantling of a Franco-Belgian cocaine network.

Two gendarmes from the BND purchased 1.5 kilos of pure cocaine and one of them, crossing the Dutch border, was arrested by the Dutch CRI [expansion unknown] (the equivalent of the BND). At Maj Francois' intervention the Belgian gendarme was released, but the cocaine was seized in Amsterdam. Hence, a 1,500,000 deficit at the gendarmerie.

Afterwards, Maj Francois obtained 3,000,000 more, which was paid to a non-commissioned officer in the BND and to an informer, one Jean Touboul, 47, a "pied noir." The latter, in a move abroad in 1978, disappeared with the 3,000,000.

Touboul was well known by the French, Belgian, German and Dutch police. Not only did he have a long police record (he committed many robberies, mostly in the jewelry stores of the Louise quarter), but he was an informer of choice for the police.

Some think he must be under cover somewhere in France or Germany, protected by the police he continues to inform.

We further point out that despite the escape of its 3,000,000, the gendarmerie once more "invested" about 300,000 francs in an affair which was also a failure.

According to our information, the gendarmerie headquarters had been told of these operations and their precise goals. In short, the authorities were "covering" Maj Francois' operations, unofficially but surely, and on condition that the investment be effective.

This was not always the case; hence the requests to the officer for explanations.

Meanwhile, a gendarme assigned to the BND set up a private investigation into the activities of that department and believed he had discovered that some of its members were holding back narcotics, either for themselves or to restore the lost sums in whole or in part. This gendarme made a report to a superior officer, who transmitted it to headquarters last summer. It was after the investigation set off by the report that one authority suggested to the major that he resign, which he refused to do. Two American DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) agents stationed at the embassy in Brussels and working in collaboration with the Belgian bureau, Messrs Gaey and Franck, were recalled to the United States; they had been too closely involved in certain BND investigations.

In his explanations to his superiors, and no doubt in his answers to the examining magistrate on Saturday, Maj Francois must have revealed the names of the gendarmerie officers--and even that of a Brussels court judge--who were familiar with the methods used and had therefore officially approved them.

Then there was the Pakistan affair, to which we shall return: a courier from the Belgian gendarmerie, Joseph Vienne, was sent to Southeast Asia to buy heroin with gendarmerie money.

His route had been pointed out to police authorities and was to be facilitated in principle. But Vienne did not return home in a straight line; he took a detour by way of Nairobi to Kenya, where on the strength of his "immunity" he delivered 22 kilos of heroin to the brother of a known Belgian dealer, before returning toward Belgium by way of Pakistan, where he was arrested.

In Belgium, Vienne was also mixed up in two murders committed in Flanders. He was questioned in Karachi for these murders by a member of the Criminal Investigation Department, and by Maj Francois for the heroin trafficking.

Afterwards, requests for information emanating from the gendarmerie of the Brussels public prosecutor remained unanswered, and it was supposed that intervention by Maj Francois with the Pakistani gendarmerie might be behind the silence.

In the private investigation set by the gendarme who was newly incorporated into the BND, there was also a question of some mysterious suitcases which, at the request of the bureau chief, passed through Brussels National Airport without being submitted to customs control, thanks to the accommodating attitude of someone close to a BND non-commissioned officer, who works at the airport.

In short, Maj Francois and some of his associates were accused of having sold drugs to restore the lost funds, and were even suspected of sometimes having shared the profits. This was the essential point of the deposition taken of that gendarme in July 1979, which was first communicated to the commanding officer of the gendarmerie and then led to various investigations. And on Saturday ended in the first arrests.

A Fanatic who was Hunting Big Game

Married and the father of a family, fascinated since his youth by the drug problem, Maj Francois was the first Belgian gendarmerie officer to take a "drug training" course in Washington. He had directed the BND since it was created eight years ago. He helped to put in place many narcotics sections in the BSRs [special investigation departments] of the gendarmerie and in police departments.

While the "nark" sections were fighting small traffick, Maj Francois' BND was collaborating with the German BKA [expansion unknown] and the Dutch CRI, the French Central Office and of course the American DEA, in dismantling the big international networks.

In many other countries the services he was working with were legally authorized to use certain procedures that are forbidden in Belgium, such as sham purchase, controlled deliveries, offer for sale or transportation of narcotics.

Those who are engaged in this unequal struggle, faced with an international "milieu" that is ready for anything, know the dealers' customs. They know that the networks are tested several times. They know that one does not go to buy drugs with a suitcase stuffed with newspapers. They know that one does not with impunity offer flour to attract heroin dealers. To succeed, the BND needed money. It received it, because it was undoubtedly the only way it could be effective.

If the affair stops there, the officer's arrest will serve to reveal the hypocrisy of a system summed up in the ugly precept, "Do it, but don't get caught." If the examination demonstrates that the officer profited personally from the freedom he was allowed, then....

8946
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DENMARK

REPORT DISCUSSES NARCOTICS USE IN PRISONS

Copenhagen AKTUELT in Danish 4 Jan 80 p 29

[Article by Carl-Johan Rosenberg: "The Abuse of Drugs Is Increasing: Every Third Prisoner on Drugs"]

[Text] One out of three prisoners in the closed prisons are drug abusers. In the state prison in Ringe the problems are so large that more than one-half of the prisoners use hash or hard drugs.

This is clear from a recommendation on violence and drugs in the closed institutions of the criminal welfare office, which the minister of justice has just received.

In September of 1979, 37 percent of the prisoners in the closed prisons were drug abusers. This corresponded to 425 people. Two years earlier the corresponding fraction was 28, and one year earlier it was 33 percent. In contrast to earlier, this involves a larger group of criminal drug abusers, who are in jail again soon after they have served their sentence. And since the abuse to a continuously increasing extent is associated with hard drugs, the development is alarming.

The recommendation proposes that the group of inmates who handle the organized trade with hard drugs be placed in a special prison. The task force responsible for the recommendation believes that this will presumably involve some 20 inmates. The group is composed of leaders and personnel representatives from the prisons.

Fear of Retaliation

The prison authorities' knowledge about narcotics abuse and violence in the prisons originates to a great extent from information which the personnel get from the inmates and their relatives, but this is information which the people involved do not want to confirm "officially" because they have good reasons for being afraid of retaliation.

An increasing number of inmates request that they be placed in isolation. They do not dare to participate in the general fellowship and have no confidence that the personnel can provide the necessary protection. Many of the recently sentenced also apply to be transferred to certain prisons because of the extensive narcotics abuse.

Many former drug abusers--including some former alcoholics--return to drug abuse in the prisons. The easy availability of the drugs and the increasing need for stimuli and a flight from reality operate far too well together.

The financing of the drug abuse helps to keep the inmates in the criminal environment even after they have served their sentences. In some cases their wives outside the walls are forced into prostitution to provide money for the drugs.

Drugs on Credit

At other times considerable amounts are sold on credit. The buyer must pay after he is released, which easily leads to more crime--possibly by assisting the sellers in various ways.

It often happens that the inmates lose all their personal property of any value while serving their sentences. Stereo systems and TV's, for instance, are shipped out of the institution as payment for the drugs. And these things are usually sold at a price which lies far below the actual value.

The drugs help to create an atmosphere where violence and threats characterize part of the closed prisons. The threats also include the personnel and their families. "This can produce an unfortunate tendency among some of the personnel to turn their backs on the problems," were the words used in the recommendation itself.

The recommendation contained a series of proposals for improving the situation. In addition to isolating the men behind the drugs in the prisons in a special department, it is proposed that smaller departments be established. Then the personnel can to a higher degree be involved in the inmates' free time.

Visitors Searched

The group has discussed but has not proposed special institutions for the most seriously involved drug abusers.

On the other hand, the special department for drug addicts in Nyborg state prison should be utilized completely.

It is also recommended that it should be possible to examine the visitors' outer clothing and handbags before the visit. Furthermore, the group wants better training of the prison personnel, changes in the inmates' opportunities for employment and education and development of their spokesmen arrangements.

8958

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DENMARK

COPENHAGEN ANTINARCOTICS CHIEF DISCUSSES DRUG PROBLEM

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 6 Jan 80 p 17

[Article by Poul Flemming: "In Spite of the Most Profitable Year for the Narcotics Police: The Narcotics Problem Grows"]

[Text] A new tragic record in the number of narcotics deaths was set in 1979. The leader of the narcotics department at the police station in Copenhagen, assistant public prosecutor Volmer Nissen tells BERLINGSKE for the Sunday edition that the number has certainly passed 100.

The final number will only be available in a couple of months because a series of medico-legal investigations have not yet been concluded, but already with the available material it can with certainty be established that drug abuse has now cost more than 600 people their lives here at home.

"The narcotics abuse in Denmark is increasing, as everywhere else," says assistant public prosecutor Volmer Nissen.

"We have obtained greater results than ever before, we have got more important people among the drug dealers sentenced, and we have also got larger lots of narcotics seized than before.

"The sad part is only that in line with the steadily increasing number of narcotics deaths year after year we also have to observe that the problem becomes steadily more serious both here and in the other West European countries," the assistant public prosecutor tells BERLINGSKE for the Sunday edition.

He continues:

"I believe that we--if we could get equally exact numbers from other countries-- would be able to confirm that the situation is the same all over the world.

"But also take a look at how Copenhagen changes and is now almost like many other big cities in other countries. We have quarters where the essential element, in contrast to earlier, is foreigners.

"One of our detectives estimates that there are now approximately 100,000 foreigners in the Greater Copenhagen area. And since Copenhagen's original population simultaneously drops, approximately every fifth person living here legally is a foreigner. And in addition there are some who are not registered."

[Question] "By this do you mean that it is primarily guest workers who are smuggling in narcotics?"

[Answer] "No, but they give us a large number of purely adaptation problems. In the old days there was a smaller number of foreigners arriving, who either adapted to our cultural pattern or went elsewhere again. Today they are staying, but they are not adapting to our cultural pattern. They are isolated, and they presumably want to be isolated. They hold on to their previous customs, their clothes and their language. There is no desire--in any case not in very large circles of these foreigners--to be assimilated, to become Danish.

"And at the same time we get a series of drugs, which otherwise have not been part of our cultural pattern. Tobacco and liquor are materials which are probably harmful but have still been "worked in." But with the guest workers we also get their forms of abuse pulled down over our heads. Remember that many of them, for instance, come from countries where tobacco is accepted, but alcohol is not. On the other hand, hash has been accepted. To them hash has a limited damage effect because they can keep the alcohol out of their cultural pattern. But we are about to get everything here at home, if we don't look out. We get all the abuse, all the damage effects. This is why I believe the situation is so dangerous."

Hash Is Dangerous Too

"At the same time there are some people who--and I can't understand it at all--maintain that products of the hemp plant are not dangerous. There is no foundation for this claim. And what should we do with these drugs? As long as we have a possibility for holding the damage effects, for instance, from alcohol and tobacco, down to a minimum, we must naturally do so. It is almost a fixed pattern that those people who use morphine base, heroin or cocaine have, almost all of them, started with hash, but don't believe it that one cannot get started wrong with hash alone."

Volmer Nissen continues:

"The narcotics problem is a consequence of the fact that the world has become so small. It is such a short distance to the United States, and in some of our narcotics cases we can see that some of the narcotics dealers have traveled to other countries in the East or the West the way the rest of us go to Copenhagen's suburbs or the surroundings over the weekend. It is no big thing for them to skip to Thailand, Pakistan or possibly to Great Britain or the United States. All they need is enough money. And that they have."

[Question] "The customs department must still be able to establish that there are people who go abroad very often."

"Imagine how many customs agents there are as compared to the number of travelers. Recently it was reported that there would be more than 10 million people traveling through Copenhagen airport in 1979 when the figures are finally added up. And then go out and see how many customs agents there are in Kastrup.

"So, no matter how effectively we work together with the customs department, there are very good chances for slipping through with a shipment of narcotics.

"At the same time it is natural for many people to travel a great deal, and the narcotics dealers look like everybody else. It is not like in the past when the small narcotics dealers looked like overturned gypsy tents. Today the narcotics dealers look like wealthy business people. And that's what they are too."

The assistant public prosecutor concludes:

"We must--like our colleagues in other countries--be satisfied with the fact that we catch only a small percentage of the narcotics which pass through the airport or in some other way are smuggled into the country. If we catch 10 percent, we must be happy."

Since 1968 the number of narcotics-related deaths has increased steadily year after year, except for the years 1971 and 1974. In 1968 three narcotics-related deaths were recorded. From then on the numbers are: 1969: 13, 1970: 37, 1971: 37, 1972: 54, 1973: 55, 1974: 52, 1975: 61, 1976: 62, 1977: 70, 1978: 87, 1979: over 100.

8958
CSO: 5300

DENMARK

PRISONERS' LAWYER ATTACKS PLAN TO ISOLATE ADDICTS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 7 Jan 80 pt II p 3

[Article by Solveig Rodsgaard: "He Defends Drug Addicts and Rockers"]

[Text] Erik Ninn-Hansen often spends Saturday afternoon in Western Prison-- "it is necessary in order to handle one's case properly," he says. He also believes that we use isolation cells too much and that methadone should be used a little more.

"Isolation during the investigations in a criminal case is used far too much. It is extremely hard for young first-time criminals. It happens that this type of a young criminal admits something which he has not done at all-- only to get out of the isolation."

This is what an attorney who for 3 years has worked as appointed defender mainly for people charged in narcotics crimes and for rockers in violence cases and youth gang cases says. A job which the attorney has done so well that a couple of months ago he received an honor gift from his colleagues for work well done.

In public the attorney is best known as a politician. He is the Conservative Erik Ninn-Hansen (57), former defense and finance minister, member of parliament's praesidium and also parliament's senior Nestor with barely 27 years behind himself in parliament.

Erik Ninn-Hansen himself says that in his work as appointee he stands fully and completely on the side of the accused. "This gives no conflict in the relationship to my party. But, of course, I must realize that the statements I come with in court are not shared by everybody in the national council meetings in the Conservative Party."

Commodity

The problem with isolation occupies Erik Ninn-Hansen very much, and since he is a representative in parliament's law committee, he expects that the law committee will take the case up for discussion.

"One is forced to use isolation during the investigation in many narcotics cases. And I am completely in favor of isolation in cases which involve the security of the state. This is obvious. But I believe that in other cases isolation is used too much. This is to a certain degree also true in narcotics cases. Today isolation is probably used not so much to keep people away from connections with the surroundings but to force out a confession."

Narcotics

Erik Ninn-Hansen has had many narcotics addicts as clients in his time as appointed defender. And he admits that it has been a shocking thing to experience that environment.

"It is of course always shocking to see how talented people go to waste. Because one must not believe that one can manage with a fairly good social system. But it has also been shocking for me to find out how much narcotics they use. I had not believed that people could survive such doses. I have run into cases where it has cost up to 8000 kroner each day. More commonly approximately 4000 kroner. And that money must of course be obtained through crime."

Erik Ninn-Hansen believes that the post treatment of narcotics criminals is far too poor when they get out of prison.

"Even if they have been cured in the prison, in most cases things go wrong when they get out. Many narcotics are very soft; they are fishing for humanity. Our care seems far too cool. It does not give human support. These young cured drug addicts aspire to human company, and then in a large number of cases they turn back to their old environment.

"Methadone treatment will be a big help," according to Erik Ninn-Hansen. "Although methadone is given in the detention prison, 'it would be inhuman not to do so,' but it should also be possible to give methadone when the young drug addicts get out again.

"I don't believe that methadone is habit forming. I don't believe that the young people will continue with it. I have seen many favorable examples. Especially the young female drug addicts have looked terrible when I have talked to them the first time. But after methadone treatment for a couple of weeks they are completely different people from those who almost were dragged into court.

"It is better to use methadone, break a principle and then save those involved than to give lectures about solving the social side of society."

Erik Ninn-Hansen believes that many of the young drug addicts would like to be under strong control when they get out so that they can escape from their old environment. In his opinion the path forward might be more offers of family care or placement in smaller institutions, far away from their original environment.

"We must try to see if we could get away from the politically accentuated discussion, as, for instance, the discussion about methadone treatment. The narcotics problems cannot be managed by means of the liberal means which are normally praised in the Criminal Welfare Service. Society is too despairing about these people. They are neither imbeciles nor ungifted people. They can just not manage alone."

8958

CSO: 5300

DENMARK

PRISON AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE MEASURES TO STOP DRUGS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 3 Jan 80 p 7

[Article: "People Visiting Prisons To Be Searched for Narcotics"]

[Text] In the future, visitors in closed prisons will probably have to let handbags and in any case outer clothing be searched.


This is clear from the recommendation from a task force under the Criminal Care, which has studied the situation concerning violence, smuggling, and trade with narcotics in the prisons. The report does not conceal the fact that not everything is all right.

The absolute number of drug abusers in the closed institutions may not have increased especially abruptly in the last full 5 years--from 389 to 425--but since the total number of prisoners in this period has decreased, the percentage of drug abusers has now increased to 37 percent. Furthermore, the drug abusers are generally suffering worse from their abuse than previously. To a high degree the same people are involved who were also abusers at the beginning of the 1970's and who later on have wandered in and out of the prisons. In addition comes the fact that the number of narcotics dealers, violent criminals and psychological deviates is increasing.

Poorer Atmosphere

According to the report, it has been negative that such large resources in recent years have had to be used for control institutions and disciplinary reactions. But the professionalism which characterizes parts of the narcotics trade is a reason for an "escalation" of the control. It is said that drugs have to a high degree been able to help to create a poorer atmosphere between the prisoners and the personnel because any control would necessarily have to include all prisoners.

Smuggling and other violations are carried out to a wide extent by all prisoners who are not addicts themselves, and also by their relatives.



The report recognizes that especially in the state prisons in Vridsloselille, Nyborg and Horsens there has been a considerable increase in the cases of passive resistance, violence and threats about violence against the personnel. In the task force there is agreement that one does not solve the many problems with "simple restrictive measures," but in addition to pointing out the importance of qualified prison employees and foremen, a series of proposals is also made for developing control measures. This includes the proposal, as stated, that visitors' handbags and outer clothing must be allowed to be searched as a condition for the visit to take place. There are also proposals about restrictions with regards to the inmates disposing of more valuable personal property. Quite frequently people in jail lose everything of value because, for instance, TV and stereo systems are shipped out of the institution as payment for drugs and are sold at a price far below the actual value.

8958
CSO: 5300

DENMARK

AUTHORITIES ARREST TURKS SMUGGLING 80 PERCENT MORPHINE BASE DRUG

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 31 Dec 79 p 1

[Article: "A New Dangerous Drug in Denmark"]

[Text] An extremely rare form of drug, which contains 80 percent morphine base, has appeared in Denmark. So far approximately 1 kg, which on the black market has a value of 1 million kroner, has been seized. Three Turkish citizens, aged 20, 30 and 50 years, have been arrested and jailed in connection with the case.

The detective force has put a blackout on the whole case. It was the narcotics police in Glostrup which got on the trail which led to the three Turkish citizens' being arrested in Copenhagen police district. The rare drug was found when the arrested men's residence was searched.

It is not yet known where the drug came from and how it was smuggled into Denmark. Neither is it known how much has been distributed before the narcotics police got on the trail and struck. In professional circles the drug is considered to be much more serious than what one is used to. The police therefore do not want to say what a more popular designation for the drug might be. However, it is known that the same drug has been distributed elsewhere in the country, and it is believed that there is a connection. More arrests can therefore be expected.

In a constitutional hearing with closed doors in the criminal court in Glostrup yesterday, the three Turkish citizens were jailed for 4 weeks.

8958
CSO: 5300

DENMARK

POLICE ARREST ITALIANS FOR SMUGGLING 2 KILOS OF HEROIN

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 9 Jan 80 p 2

[Article by Anders Wiig]

[Text] Two specially trained narcotics dogs were patted and given dog bones, four foreigners were sent to the Vestre Prison, and the drug market lost 2 kilos of heroin said to have a street value of 20 million kroner when the police raided a hotel room at Vesterbro in Copenhagen.

The case has largely been kept secret seeing that a couple of members of the gang are still at large. P. Gauguin, assistant commissioner of the narcotics branch in Copenhagen, wants merely to state: "It is true that we have made a major drug seizure, and four foreigners have been apprehended after the police trouble spotters on Monday night were given a good tip and did a fine piece of preliminary work, at the same time as we were called in."

BERLINGSKE has learnt from other quarters that the tip of the police trouble spotters was to the effect that five foreigners had brought a large quantity of heroin to a hotel at Vesterbro. The police immediately proceeded to the hotel, together with two dog handlers with the narcotics dogs Sam and Bingo, and went to the room of the 25-year-old Italian Agostino Saccardos. He appeared very perturbed that the police would suspect him of drug smuggling but allowed them to let the dogs sniff at things around the room.

Sam showed a conspicuous interest in the closet. When the door of the closet was opened, the dog reached for the hat shelf, where a black travel bag was standing. A police officer took the bag down to the dog, which immediately pulled out a bag of heroin. At the same time, the Italian was handcuffed.

He and two Greeks, the 28-year-old Sotirios Bulgaridis and the 30-year-old Anastasios Fuskopulos, as well as the 28-year-old Iranian Bahman Separlous, who arrived on the scene shortly afterwards to visit the Italian, were yesterday sentenced at a hearing in camera for serious narcotics smuggling.

The black bag contained 2 kilos of heroin, which, at an analysis reacted so strongly to a morphine test that the police is of the opinion that it is a question of the so-called heroin 4. If that is the case, the heroin that has been found has a street value of 20 million kroner. The reaction of those apprehended to the charge could not be stated yesterday. The police is of the opinion that they have smuggled the heroin into the country from Germany, to which country an Italian wanted in the case is thought to have fled right after the arrest of the four smugglers.

In another case concerning the smuggling of hard drugs, two young Danes were likewise sentenced at hearings in camera yesterday. Together with smugglers previously arrested, they have been charged with smuggling many kilos of morphine chloride into the country from India. The couple may be connected with a Danish woman, Susan Graversen, who, in Italy, is in danger of being sentenced to 25 years of prison for the smuggling of morphine chloride.

7262
CSO: 5300

DENMARK

TWO ARRESTED, ACCUSED OF BRINGING HEROIN FROM SPAIN

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 12 Jan 80 p 2

[Text] The narcotics police last night arrested a young engaged couple-- both of them 24 years old--when they stepped onto Danish soil at Kastrup Airport. Detective inspectors were waiting with warrants for their arrest when the couple left Tjæreborg's Malaga aircraft NB 162.

The two young people were returning from a week's holiday on the Spanish Costa del Sola--in the opinion of the police, paid for by drug addicts who are dependent on the deadly drug of heroin. The narcotics police have charged the couple with supplying heroin to a young Copenhagen married couple who were arrested by the police trouble spotters last Thursday night. The couple who have two children are themselves helplessly addicted to hard drugs. To obtain money for drugs for themselves, they have, from their flat at Nørrebro, been selling heroin to other addicts.

On Thursday night, the police trouble spotters intervened in a drug transaction, arresting a married couple and three heroin buyers, and finding 12 grams of heroin and approximately 30,000 kroner. Yesterday, the husband was sentenced by the judge to imprisonment, while the woman was released, among other reasons, to allow her to return home to her two small children. The couple have told the police that the two holiday-makers were the chief suppliers of their heroin. The husband has admitted that he has purchased 40 grams from the said suppliers shortly before Christmas and has stated that he paid them a large amount of money before they left for their holiday in Spain.

The couple apprehended at the airport was last night interrogated at the Copenhagen police headquarters. Their statements were not yet known late last night. They will today be brought before the judge and demanded imprisoned for serious drug trafficking. After their arrest, they were searched and their luggage examined, but the police did not find any smuggled drugs on them.

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CSO:5300

FRANCE

DRUG USAGE NOW SAID TO BE 'ENDEMIC'

Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Jan 80 p 10

[Article: "'Drug Usage is Endemic Now' says Mr Daniel Hoeffel"--passages in slantlines published in italics]

[Text] /"At present, the use of drugs in France has become firmly established and is endemic, and in many Departments the situation is more serious than one would like to believe,"/ said Mr Daniel Hoeffel, secretary of state for Social Action, on Thursday, 17 January, when he introduced the foundation/"Youth Addiction and Prevention,"/ created through the initiative of Mrs Jacques Chaban-Delmas, and part of the Foundation of France.*

Voluntary services, pluralism in its organization, education and training: these are all reasons, according to Mr Hoeffel, for supporting the action of this new body, which will be responsible in the beginning for training professionals in different areas: /"Some day, the language of fear and repression will no longer be the only one used to answer questions,"/ said Mr Hoeffel who had asked for a speedy implementation of the propositions drawn up by an interministerial commission, as we were reminded by Mr Jacques Barrot, minister of health.

It seems that in the field there are bigger differences of opinion regarding the means to be used for informing the youth about these problems: thus, in Val-de-Marne, the argument between the two adversaries goes on, namely between the communist party and the teachers who, on Tuesday, 18 December, had distributed a pamphlet about drugs. In fact, the leaders of the SGEN-CFDT of Val-de-Marne have decided to distribute the litigious pamphlet in other institutions in order to show their solidarity. They state in a communique: /"...The nature and the scope of the present libellous campaign which goes beyond the drug problem itself aims to ban vocational training for those having a different opinion."/ Thus on Thursday, 10 January, some teachers distributed this pamphlet in front of the schools of Adolphe-Cherieux in Vitry. Other actions are anticipated for the near future.

* 40 Hoche Avenue, 75008 Paris. Telephone: 563-66-66

On Wednesday, 16 January, L'HUMANITE reacted to these initiatives: /"Unfortunately, the dangerous irresponsibility of some and the willing passivity of others form a real complicity whose victims will be found among the young. It is an unacceptable situation, which has been condemned by the professors of the communist cell of Adolphe-Cherieux after the circulation of the pamphlet that was signed by the department of SGEN-CFDT."/

The Socialist Party Federation and the Socialist Youth Movement of Val-de-Marne rise /"against the rightwing press campaign which attacks again the public schools, and are then surprised at the position taken by the PCF."/

9465
CSO: 5300

FRANCE

SERIOUS INCREASE IN HEROIN ADDICTION NOTED

Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Jan 80 p 11

[Article by Serge Chauvel-Leroux]

[Text] Increased heroin use: according to Monique Pelletier, who since the report issued at the request of the president of the Republic has been in charge of observing the development of the "drug" phenomenon in France, this is one of the agonizing points appearing in light of the first figures collected in 1979, which she is giving to us first.

The drug-dependent population would now be 30,000 to 50,000 persons, with a clear tendency to increase. The number of those dead by an "overdose," basically among the young, is rapidly growing: 5 in 1970, 37 in 1975, 72 in 1977, 109 in 1978, 117 in the year just past. This is still far from the records observed in Germany (600 in 1979, 79 of them in the city of West Berlin alone) or Italy.

Nevertheless, police evidence pointing to the supposition that there is a renaissance of the French Connection in liaison with Turkey, the producing country, and Italy, the turntable, is not especially reassuring. Hashish and marijuana, which, thanks to France's efforts at the recent International Conference in Stockholm are no longer considered minor drugs, are used by a much more significant number (1 out of 10, according to INSERM [National Health and Medical Research Institute]) of young people.

Monique Pelletier, however, believes that the number of affairs discovered by the police, customs and the gendarmerie (+51.6 percent over 1978) indicates that, faced with an increase in the number of drug users, the suppression services are stepping up the quality of their surveillance: 4,824 matters dealt with in 1979 against 3,182 in 1978 (and only 1,703 in 1977). The number of persons arrested clearly illustrates this added efficiency: 10,430 in 1979 and 7,799 in 1978). This improvement is found again in every one of the sub-headings: 225 international dealers (against 158 in 1978); 585 local dealers (against 348); 1,627 user-dealers (against 1,178); and 7,993 simple users (Against 6,115). The development of national and international coordination is

at the bottom of these successes (since 1977 French "narks" have had an outpost in Bangkok). The figures for quantities seized, soon to be published, should confirm this impression.

Thanks to the information activities that have been undertaken, the "drug" phenomenon has emerged from its ghetto. In school circles the presence of drugs in an institution is no longer an object of shame that the director tries to conceal. Hence, on the local level the possibility of gathering together around this concrete problem policemen, school leaders, parents of pupils, members of associations to aid in rehabilitation of addicts, etc. When it is precisely defined the problem can be attacked more effectively. Organizing meetings of this kind in Neuilly, where she is a town council member, Monique Pelletier was struck by the fact that, even while increased drug use was separately dreaded, no overall approach had yet been tried by these organizations. "Health" clubs should make it possible to partially raise this wall of silence and shame at the start of the 1980 school year.

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CSO: 5300

FRANCE

BRIEFS

1979 DRUG TOLL--In 1979 drugs killed 117 people in France. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Interior, established by the Central Office for the Repression of Illegal Drugs [OCRTIS] 117 persons died in France in 1979 from drug overdose. That is 7 percent more than in 1978, when there were 109 deaths. From 1977, the year when 72 cases of overdose were recorded, to 1978 the number of deaths increased by 51 percent. Therefore, this year one can notice a slight decrease which may be due to a more even supply than in previous years. However, at OCRTIS any hasty interpretations are rejected. Yet the number of cases handled by the police and the gendarmerie went from 3,182 in 1978 to 4,824 in 1979. 10,430 people were arrested as opposed to 7,799 in 1978: 225 international drug traffickers, 585 local traffickers, 1,625 users and middlemen, 7,993 ordinary users. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Jan 80 p 12] 9465

DRUG USERS SENTENCED--Nine young men from la Fleche (Sarthe), charged with using drugs and drug trafficking were condemned to prison or received suspended sentences by the Departmental court of Mans on Tuesday, 15 January. Their arrest last November caused quite a commotion in the region (LE MONDE, 27 November, 1979): several cafes in the city were closed, and to protest the arrival of drugs to la Fleche, the storekeepers had closed their shops during the day. The most important person charged, Alain Martinet, 26 years old, born in Boulogne-Billancourt (Hauts-de-Seine), suspected of having supplied several dozen youths with hashish, and another user were condemned to a year in prison of which 6 months was a suspended sentence. The others all got suspended sentences. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Jan 80 p 11] 9465

CSO: 5300

SPAIN

COCAINE SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Madrid YA in Spanish 27 Dec 79 p 36

[Text] A total of 4 kg of cocaine, valued at more than 200 million pesetas, several millions more in jewels and cash and 4 luxury automobiles were confiscated. The gang was formed by 18 persons, most of them gypsies, and with many criminal records.

An important drug trafficking gang has been broken up by inspectors of Group XI of Madrid's regional judicial police, experts in the fight against drugs. The members of the gang were mostly gypsies; 18 of them have been arrested and 4 kg of 92 percent pure cocaine valued at some 200 million pesetas was seized.

The principal leaders of the gang were the brothers Francisco Campos Amaya, "Quini," and Rafael Campos Amaya, "Negrete," 39 and 27 years old respectively. Also arrested were 5 "messengers" who had just brought the drug into Spain: Rosario Jimenez Jimenez, 30; Maria Jimenez Alepuz, 22; Manuela Salazar Munoz, 49; Wenceslada Jimenez Alepuz, 28 and Ana Amaya Heredia, 22.

Also arrested were Adelaida Amaya Fernandez, 60 years old; Juan Miranda Ramirez, 53; Jesus Montes Munoz, 26; Josefa Camacho Fuentes, 24; Rocio Rodriguez Santiago, 23; Manuela Serrano Hidalgo, 20; Isabel Amaya, 27; Rafael Chamorin Salguero, 24; Petro Manuel Gimenez Gabarri, 28; Agustin Moreno Calero, 31 and Jose Maria Dual Dual, 39, all of them as dealers or accomplices of the gang.

The above-mentioned persons used a series of apartments in Madrid (48 Juan Andres Street; 10 Maderuelo; 13 Linneo and 6, 8 and 10 Apolonio Morales). In these apartments, a large package of jewels, arms, etc., was confiscated, including a load of smuggled jewels valued at more than 2 million pesetas, 900,000 pesetas in coins, a 9 mm Corto Star pistol, a 6.35 Martian, an air pistol and an antique pistol, all of them with their appropriate ammunition.

Also impounded were four expensive cars belonging to the Campos Amaya brothers: an Alfa Romero, a Javerin and two Ferraris. The two owners were not employed but were spending large sums of money in "bingos" of the Spanish

capital. Rafael paid 40,000 pesetas for renting an apartment on Apolonio Morales, while Francisco was in the process of buying a chalet valued at 15 million in Mirasierra. It has been learned that the latter used to give as much as 20,000 pesetas in tips.

The inspectors spent several months gathering exhaustive data on the subjects and their organization. This information finally led to the breaking up of the group. The workings of the gang were known in detail when they were arrested, so the police waited for the moment when five "messengers" arrived in Madrid with the cocaine.

Francisco Campos had resided several years before in Bolivia, where he dealt in coins and art objects. He often traveled to Spain, until recently, when he got passports for several women who took over his route. It seems the women smuggled the drug concealed in their clothing.

Francisco Campos has a criminal record for theft and assault and battery; Jose Maria Dual, for swindle; Maria and Wenceslada Jimenez, for larceny; Rocio Rodriguez, for petty theft, prostitution and abandoning the home; Agustin Moreno, for rape, and the rest did not have any criminal record.



Rafael and Francisco Campos, the principal leaders of the gang.

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CSO: 5300

SWEDEN

SMUGGLING SUSPECTS THOUGHT TO BE AIDING U.S. POLITICAL GROUP

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 5 Feb 80 p 28

[Article by Leif Dahlin]

[Text] An international narcotics band in Stockholm is believed to have "plowed" millions of kronor into business firms or into a support fund for a political movement in the United States. The band consists of 17 people--most of them Americans along with one citizen of Tanzania and one from Trinidad. The members of the gang are known to have sold at least 200 kilos of cannabis, 4 kilos of cocaine and a half kilo of heroin at discotheques and to "in" groups in Sweden. District attorney Per Roswall will ask Stockholm district court to detain five people on Tuesday.

Customs officials in Copenhagen and Stockholm, working together, caught wind of the band in mid-December. A female drug courier on her way home from Cairo with 10 kilos of cannabis in a suitcase lost the suitcase at Kastrup. The suitcase was found and searched.

The woman filed a complaint and information on the form told the Arlanda customs agents where to deliver the suitcase. The delivery took place at a small hotel in the City of Stockholm.

Customs service criminal agents and detectives from the National Criminal Police Force's narcotics sector took part in the action.

Ten Seized

Several people were seized, including an international fugitive, Robert Vance Walton, 33, who was freed from a prison hospital in Illinois in the United States in 1977. He had served 7 years in jail for the murder of a Palestinian and had been sentenced to a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 years. When he was freed Walton, who claims to be a former Black Panther leader, was supplied with \$75,000. He went to Tanzania via Canada, Poland, East Germany and Sweden. With the help of a false passport he returned to Sweden.

Walton and his wife have been charged with serious drug violations. Walton has confessed. At the trial district attorney Roswall will ask that Walton be deported to the United States. A 30-year-old fellow countryman, one of the major figures in the gang, has denied the charges. He is wanted in the United States on suspicion of rape, kidnapping and sodomy. The highest court previously turned down an American request to turn him over on the grounds that the court did not think there was sufficient evidence to back up the suspicions.

Deportation

According to district attorney Roswall the evidence that the man committed serious narcotics violations among other things is overwhelming and deportation will also be requested in his case. "I could take him to trial without having to call a single witness to confirm the case," Roswall said.

In addition to the 10 who have already been arrested and the five whose arrest will be requested Tuesday, two members of the band have been detained in Malmo.

The National Criminal Police Force has made an extensive list of the activities of the band. With the help of documents such as exchange notes, airplane tickets, address books, false passports, etc. it has been proven that the band made a number of drug trips to Egypt and other countries.

The police have confiscated a total of 24 kilos of cannabis that was being smuggled in from Cairo. The leaders have so far admitted smuggling in around 200 kilos of cannabis and a half kilo of heroin as well as 4 kilos of cocaine. Some of the drugs were smuggled in in specially prepared Coca Cola bottles and spray cans.

The police have not seized any sums in cash. The remarkable thing is that only one of the 17 people involved has ever tried using drugs.

According to the head of the preliminary investigation nothing was turned up to indicate that any of those detained used drugs, even four young girls who were arrested. All of them come from upper middle-class backgrounds. One of them worked as a prostitute for the leaders and earned at least 100,000 kronor for the pimps. The woman who is in bad shape due to rough physical and mental treatment, has provided a number of shocking details on how they were forced to become narcotics couriers and how they were used sexually. The women were promised lots of money for their work but they had not received a cent.

One of the key figures traveled often and as camouflage took his wife and young child along with him.

One of the top men said that with Sweden as a base they were able to make good contacts inside some Swedish oil companies. The serious business negotiations being conducted had reached the point when the police stepped in that they had a contract within reach that would have given them an income of 5-6 million kronor a year for oil deals with an Arab nation.

The confiscated exchange notes show that the leaders of the gang exchanged very large amounts of Swedish currency into American dollars. The black market value of the narcotics the district attorney thinks he can prove the band sold in Sweden from 1977 to 1979 is around 18 million kronor. Not a cent was confiscated, none of them used drugs themselves-- not even the 22-year-old Swedish girl in the hands of the gang who took her own life last spring.

Drugs in the Cargo

The Johnson line's cargo ship, "Buenos Aires," has been under strict customs surveillance in Stockholm free port since Sunday evening. When some of the cargo, consisting of copper, zinc and coffee, was unloaded in Copenhagen about 100 kilos of marijuana turned up. When the ship came to Stockholm via Helsingborg about 20 men from the customs service's own criminal division and the product supervision group were assigned to watch the unloading of the ship.

Unloading began early Monday morning and was broken off at 1100 hours due to the dockworkers' strike. The customs agents and personnel with narcotics dogs searched the ship for more narcotics. At noon the cargo holds were sealed. The investigation will continue Tuesday morning.

According to reports 500 kilos of marijuana were unloaded from the ship when it docked in Rotterdam. Reports that large quantities of drugs were being smuggled ashore reached the customs service and police in Copenhagen and when the "Buenos Aires" arrived there a sweeping search was made of the ship. In four jute bags that had already been lowered to the dock they found containers holding about 100 kilos of marijuana.

Narcotics dogs were used to search the harbor area. In a passenger car they found 2.5 kilos and in the dockworkers' canteen they found another 7.5 kilos of marijuana. Three Danish dockworkers were detained and are being questioned by Copenhagen criminal police.

When the ship, which came from Colombia, arrived at Helsingborg customs men there made a renewed search. No drugs were found however. Four customs detectives sailed on the ship when it went to Stockholm and turned over surveillance of the ship to their colleagues in Stockholm.

According to the customs criminal division it is not known if there are more drugs on the ship.

In the mid-1970's another of the Johnson line ships docking at South American ports was involved in a smuggling case. The officer in charge found 500 kilos of narcotics on board. He simply threw the whole lot over the side.

Smuggling Common

"Some 23,000 commercial ships arrive in Swedish ports each year. We had thought we were spared from large-scale smuggling of drugs among the regular commercial cargoes. What the Johnson line ship 'Buenos Aires' contains in addition to 3000 tons of coffee is something we may be able to clear up in the next few days," said patrol chief Sigvard Falkenland of the Stockholm customs service.

"Smuggling on commercial ships is now so common that customs units all over Europe now work together to chart smuggling routes and trends rather than to control the amounts that trickle through. Reports that some of the marijuana cargo seized on the 'Buenos Aires' in Copenhagen was intended for Sweden were taken very seriously. That is why we used a large number of men from the product supervision group and the customs criminal division in the continuing search of the 'Buenos Aires.'

"The cooperation with other customs units in countries belonging to the European Customs Council will be developed further. The exchange of information has also led to many substantial finds," Falkenland said.

The Stockholm customs criminal division is working on many interesting investigations right now and it should be noted that customs personnel at Arlanda have seized 10 batches of drugs since last December. Some of them have already enabled the police to break up big drug gangs.

Smaller drug hauls have also been made in Jamtland and customs men do not rule out the possibility that these may be connected with Swedes who work or have worked on the Norwegian oil platforms in the North Sea.

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SWEDEN

JUDGE PASSES FINAL SENTENCES IN STOCKHOLM HASHISH CASE

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 26 Jan 80 p 11

[Article by Claes von Hofsten]

[Text] The last sentences in the big narcotics case unraveled by the county narcotics group in Stockholm were handed down Friday in Huddinge district court. In all 24 people have been sentenced.

Jan-Erik Blomqvist and Sigge Ehlin, both 29, were sentenced to 5 years in jail for serious narcotics violations among other things. Three more people were sentenced on Friday. One was sentenced to 3 years in jail, another got 2 years in jail and the third got off with fines.

Blomqvist and Ehlin have been big dealers in drugs for several years, mainly dealing in hashish. They operated in southern Stockholm. Ehlin often went around armed and therefore he was also sentenced for illegal possession of firearms.

When three heroin dealers were arrested last August it was found they had received their drugs from Blomqvist. The investigation showed that he had sold at least 25 kilos of hashish and a smaller quantity of heroin. He admitted having had only 4 kilos.

Ehlin was arrested last November in an apartment in Sodermalm. At that time the police found 150,000 kronor in cash, 23,000 under the mattress and the rest in a bank box in a bag. Ehlin denied all the charges against him and claimed that by saving hard through the years he had managed to amass the large sum of money.

The investigation started when the police discovered a smuggling trick. Some books sent from abroad had had their original covers removed and replaced with pressed cakes of cannabis. The person to whom the books were sent was arrested and little by little other people could be arrested too. Some of them confessed freely and thus helped the police to put the narcotics-dealing gang out of business.

The central figure in the case was sentenced to 7 years in jail just a week ago. Of the 24 people now sentenced four were tried in France. They had tried to smuggle over 100 kilos of hashish from Morocco to Sweden, an attempt blocked by the French police.

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SWEDEN

POLICE ARREST IRANIAN IN OPIUM SMUGGLING CASE

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 28 Jan 80 p 9

[Article by Leif Dahlin]

[Text] A young Iranian is in detention in Norrkoping, suspected of opium smuggling. The man who is out of work and expects to start his high school studies has been flying home every 2 weeks for some time. He has also had expensive telephone conversations with contacts in Iran and England.

A week ago a package mailed in Tehran arrived for the man. People at a post office outside Norrkoping became suspicious and opened the package. It contained two cartons of cigarettes. The cellophane wrappers around the cartons appeared to be intact and the seals appeared to be genuine. A customs man shook the boxes and felt an "imbalance" in some of them. When they were weighed it was found that two packages were heavier than the rest.

When the heaviest packages were opened two sticks containing 55 grams of raw opium apiece were found.

Customs agents gave the post office personnel instructions on how to act if the man came to pick up the package. But there was a delay and a customs agent took a second notice to the man's address.

Customs service criminal detectives waited several days for the man. It was not until 1700 hours on Friday that he arrived at the post office to pick up his package. Then the customs agents pounced. The man claimed ignorance of the reason for his arrest. He was detained under suspicion of serious narcotics violations. At the same time searches were made in two places and in one of the man's suitcases a half kilo of a figlike substance that could be raw opium was found. This has been sent to the State Criminal Laboratory in Linkoping for analysis.

Viewed against the background of his frequent trips to Iran and his many telephone calls to England the police suspect that these could be tied in with drug smuggling.

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