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(FOUO 32/80)

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JPRS L/9226

30 July 1980

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 32/80)

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WORLDWIDE REPORT  
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

DEATH IN DRUG RAID--Queensland police yesterday named the man who was shot dead by a young undercover detective during a drug raid at Cairns on Monday, and revealed that the man was unarmed when he was shot. He was Melbourne-born Phillip Jason, 28. A police spokesman said Mr Jason had a criminal record which ran from 1968 to his last conviction in Western Australia this year for assault. He was charged with manslaughter after injecting heroin into another person in Sydney in 1977, but escaped from custody. [Excerpt] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Jul 80 p 3]

AID TO THAIS--Australia is to provide training and equipment worth \$250,000 to Thailand this year as part of an international effort to halt the flow of illegal narcotics from the Golden Triangle region of South-East Asia. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board in Thailand will receive motor vehicles, video and camera equipment and night-time surveillance aids. Officers of the board will be brought to Australia for intensive training by the drug unit of the Australian Federal Police and State police drug squads. The present Federal Police two-man squad in Thailand is likely to be increased as part of the program, announced yesterday by the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr McLeay. The experience and knowledge of members of the former Narcotics Bureau, disbanded last November and absorbed into the Federal Police, will be drawn on. Although Australia has provided some aid to the Thais before, the planned program is by far the biggest effort by the Federal Government. Other South-East Asian countries have also been pressing Canberra to take a more active role in the region's effort to curb the flow of illegal drugs. [Excerpts] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Jun 80 p 3]

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BURMA

WOMAN CONVICTED FOR HEROIN POSSESSION

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 1 Jul 80 p 4

[Text] RANGOON, 30 Jun—The Ahlone Township Court chaired by U Nyunt Hlaing today sentenced one Ma Khin Pyone Yi (29) of Strand Road, Ahlone Township, to five years' imprisonment under Section 6(b) (possession) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and ten years' imprisonment under Section 10(b) (sale) of the same law. Sentences are to be served concurrently. The township court ordered the acquittal of Daw Tin Kyi (46), mother of Ma Khin Pyone Yi.

K 30 each hidden in a match box. The police also found a packet of heroin worth about K 80 reportedly thrown away by Ma Khin Pyone Yi's mother in front of the tea-shop.—(070)

It was mentioned that the offender was entitled to enjoy benefits under the Amnesty Order of the Council of State of 28 May 1980.

On 6 November 1979, a police party headed by Police Station Officer U Kan Myint of the Ahlone Township together with the Ward People's Councillors searched the tea-shop run by Ma Khin Pyone Yi on Ahlone Strand Road and found four packets of heroin with a street value of

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BURMA

BIG HEROIN HAUL IN TAUNGGYI

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 7 Jul 80 p 4

[Text] RANGOON, 5 July— Taunggyi police seized three pounds and two ounces of heroin worth about K 150,000 in one raid and 11 packets in another in Taunggyi in March 1980.

Acting on a tip-off, a police party headed by Sub-Inspector U Than Aung together with the Ward People's Councillors searched the house of U Soe Myint of No 88, Pyidawaye Lane, Kantha Ward, Taunggyi and seized 11 small packets of heroin from Maung Myint Thein, son-in-law of U Soe Myint, hidden in his jerkin on 14 March 1980.

According to the confession made by Maung Myint Thein, the police party also seized K 150,000 worth of heroin weighing three pounds and two ounces hidden in four plastic containers in the house of Aik San alias Chit Swe at No 426, Thida Street, Ye-aye-kwin Ward and opium smoking paraphernalia.

Taunggyi Myoma police sent up the accused for

trial before the Township Court on 10 April 1980 under Section 6(b) (possession) and 10(b) (sale) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. The Township Court No 2 is examining the case under the Galon Project Phase-3.—NAB

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BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZED--Rangoon, 8 July--Police seized 15 grams of heroin with a street value of K 1,500 and two cigarettes containing heroin on the fourth floor of No 136, 36 Street, Rangoon recently and arrested the occupant of the room. The occupant of the room Win Maung alias Maung Pwa alias Maung Htwe (26) as well as his two companions Maung Maung Gyi alias Ahmed (24) of No 220, Anawrahta Street and Maung Swe alias Zaw Jhwe (25) of No 40 (second floor), Shwebontha Street were booked under Sections 14 (b) (possession), 10(b) (sale), II (abetment) and I<sub>1</sub>(d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.--(H) [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 9 Jul 80 p 8]

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INDIA

BRIEFS

DELHI DRUG ARREST--Two foreign nationals and an Indian were arrested in New Delhi on Sunday for possessing narcotics, reports UNI quoting the police. Fabrizio Cassano of Italy, who was found to have some cocaine and charas, was arrested under the Dangerous Drugs Act and Excise Act, while a Spanish tourist, Manuel Bernard was arrested for possessing 375 grams of charas. Fazal of North Delhi was nabbed under the Excise Act as he was carrying 1,500 grams of charas. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 80 p 7]

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PAKISTAN

'MORNING NEWS' LAUDS EFFORT TO STOP NARCOTIC SMUGGLING

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 2 Jul 80 p 4

[Editorial: "Narcotic Smuggling"]

[Text] Reports of successful drug hauls by various law-enforcing agencies from time to time have a dual implication. While the vigilance of these agencies is reassuring, the increasing frequency of the attempts at narcotic smuggling on a scale approaching the organized rather than the less alarming individual level, is an unpleasant indication of a trend that should not be disregarded. Smuggling and dealing in contraband is heinous in any form, but narcotic smuggling, where the stakes are particularly high and dangerous, is the most invidious kind in terms of consequences to society and the community. Some record level hauls have been made over the past year or so, and it would appear that our routes have become part of the international route in the illicit drug trade. This calls for increasing expertise and material resources being made available to the agencies responsible for curbing such traffic. Authorities here seem well aware of this, and the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board is planning to conduct a six-month training programme in Karachi later this year for various local agencies responsible for the control of trade in narcotics. This training programme will be held in association with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency. It should provide those attending the course with an improved knowledge of techniques of apprehension, for drug smugglers make use of both highly ingenious as well as extremely sophisticated methods to dodge official barriers. The mafia of this trade command enormous resources in terms of finance, organization and a technological skill. The routes of the drug trade are often through sections of the world where technical resources and finances are limited, and it is the skill and dedication of what can be termed the human element in these countries that is responsible for detecting many an attempt at a getaway, and keeps drugs away from an eventual destination in developed countries where there is the highest reward for those involved in this lethal trade.

This dedication and vigilance needs both to be recognized and supplemented by improved facilities. Imparting improved techniques is not enough, the means to implement them--in terms of finance and material equipment--must

also be implicit if the training programme is to be truly rewarding and worthwhile. Many agencies are involved in a comprehensive programme of controlling the illegal drug trade. The Police, Aviation personnel, Customs authorities on land, sea and air routes, Excise authorities, the Coast Guards, are some of the departments and agencies that are actively involved in procedures to curb and detect illicit traffic in narcotics. Obviously, a wide degree of cooperation and team work is called for if loopholes and lacunae are to be eliminated. The Agencies here have a remarkably good overall record in maintaining controls, and the quality of their service to the community should be lauded. Drug addiction, which the illegal trade in narcotics feeds and lives by, is an affliction that can eat into the vitals of the most advanced and affluent societies. Forces that keep it at bay in our own render a signal service.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

SMUGGLED DRUGS CONFISCATED--Lahore, 20 May--Last night Mianwali police recovered 2515 kilogram of charas and 220 kilogram of opium worth about 900 million rupees. This is the largest amount of opium seized to-date in Punjab. The driver, Bala Khan, and the cleaner, Ahsan Allah, were taken into custody by the police. However, the owner of the truck, Muhashar Khan, escaped. The superintendent of Mianwali police station, Chaudhry Ali Asghan Khan, told our correspondent that on the instruction of I.G. of Punjab Police, the Mianwali police, in its efforts to curb anti-social elements, blockaded the railway gate near Kala Bagh and Tolisar Road. During this operation a truck with licence plate number M.R. 6539 was stopped and a man riding it ran away. The police became suspicious and confiscated the truck. The truck looked empty but smelled of opium and charas. Opium and charas in large quantities were found in hidden compartments of the truck. Both men were caught. Bala Khan the driver belongs to Jamrood Agency and the cleaner Ahsan Allah lives in Mardan. The owner Muhashar Khan Kundi is from Peshawar district. The S.P. has registered cases against the two persons and has sent teams to Peshawar to look for the third and the real criminal. Further investigations are taking place. [Text] [Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 May 80 p 1] 7997

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PHILIPPINES

MARIHUANA PLANTS UPROOTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 80 p 2

[Text] LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Some 11,600 marijuana plants valued at P5 million were uprooted by PC and police operatives in Benguet the past three weeks.

Lt. Col. Rogelio C. Aguana, Benguet PC commander, said the marijuana plants were seized in raids conducted by operatives in Benguet.

Aguana met with Benguet Sangguniang Panlalawigan members last Monday to map out plans on how to effectively prevent the planting of marijuana plants.

In his talks with the SP members, Aguana said the proliferation of marijuana plantations in that province has posed a major problem to law enforcement agencies.

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AGUANA said that Benguet has virtually earned notoriety as the "seed producer" of marijuana.

Aguana also said he has asked the provincial and municipal police advisory council to support his earlier proposal to courts of justice for a 90-day prosecution of persons involved in illegal drug traffic. (PNA)

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THAILAND

THAI ADDICTS SAID TO FAVOR THINNER OVER HEROIN

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 13 Jun 80 pp 1, 12

[Article: "The New Fashion: 'Drug Addicts' Prefer Thinner Over Heroin"]

[Text] The director-general of the ONCB is worried that people are becoming addicted to thinner as a substitute for heroin, which is becoming very expensive, because it is a material that is in common use. He has complained that the budget allotted for drug suppression has been cut back 10 percent even though the present budget is not adequate.

Police Major General Phao Sansin, the director-general of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), told the newspaper SIAM RAT that, concerning the drug control and suppression plans, at present, he is distressed by the fact that the budget will have to be cut by 10 percent even though little money is being spent on this now. Cutting the budget will ruin the plans that have been made but if money is provided, it will be possible to solve the problems.

The director-general of the ONCB further stated that it is difficult to say whether the drug problem will improve or get worse because the statistics on the number of addicts are questionable. However, one thing that gives an indication is that the number of addicts has decreased because the price of drugs is higher than last year.

The reporter asked about youths turning to other intoxicating substances such as thinner or benzene as a substitute for heroin and what control standards would be implemented. The director-general of the ONCB stated that this becomes a problem when heroin becomes expensive. People have to find

other intoxicants, such as thinner or benzene, that are cheaper. And in the opinion of medical doctors, sniffing thinner is dangerous to the heart. It may cause anemia and put the person into a stupor.

"As for controlling this and not allowing people to sniff thinner or benzene, this is difficult because these types of goods are commonly used and are sold in the stores. I think that we must make them see the danger involved in using such substances," stated the director-general of the ONCB.

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THAILAND

PHATTAYA HEROIN RAID NETS SUSPECTS

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 15 Jun 80 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Drugs Sold to Foreigners At Phattaya"]

[Text] Three men who desired instant wealth by selling heroin to foreigners were arrested in front of a large hotel in Phattaya. Two kilograms of high-grade heroin hidden in suitcases were seized. The three suspects were waiting for the pick-up man but this person found out [about the raid] and fled. The police feared a slip-up and so they immediately arrested the group without incident.

At 1400 hours yesterday afternoon (14 June), Police Colonel Toem Sanitwong Na Ayuthaya, the commander of police precinct 7, Suppression Division, ordered Police Captain Kannimit Kannarakun, the deputy head of Section 3, police precinct 7, Police Lieutenant Seri Khairatsami and three other policemen to go to the Phattaya Palace Hotel in Chonburi Province because he had learned that drug dealers would be bringing in drugs to sell them to foreigners at the hotel. At the same time, evidence on and descriptions of all the dealers were given to them and they immediately rushed to the hotel. When they reached the hotel, they did not see anyone and, therefore, they parked and waited until they saw three well-dressed men walk up to the hotel. The men did not enter the hotel but stood about in front of the hotel acting in a suspicious manner. They could then be seen clearly and their appearances matched the descriptions given. The police waited almost 1 hour until the three men started to get nervous and looked as if they were getting ready to leave the hotel. The police were afraid that if they allowed them to leave, they would miss their chance and so they immediately arrested all three without incident. As for the person who was to come pick up the drugs, the officials think that he was informed of the raid beforehand and so did not show up.

From the investigation it was learned that the names of the three men were Mr Chot Thaikun, age 45, who lives at 155 Samutkhongkha Road in Thapradu commune, muang district, Rayong Province, Mr Suchat Netnimit, age 28, who lives at 21 Village 6, Thatheowong commune, Dosisang district, Chonburi Province, and Mr Bunyong Khomkrachang, age 36, who lives at 425 Tungwatdon subdistrict, Yannawa district, Bangkok. All three confessed that they had wanted to become rich and that they had been hired by another person and had agreed to meet the pick-up man in front of the hotel. They did not know who he was. He was to pay them but he never showed up. They were thinking about fleeing when they were arrested. However, the police are not sure that the three suspects are telling the truth. They have turned them over to Police First Lieutenant Chan Laohachot, the investigative officer on duty for further handling of the case. At the same time, it was presumed that the three might have purchased the drugs themselves in order to sell them to foreigners staying at the hotel. As for the heroin that was seized this time, it was No 3 heroin valued at 2 million baht in Thailand and at 40 million baht if sold abroad.

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THAILAND

OPIUM CROP SAID TO DROP DUE TO DROUGHT, SUPPRESSION

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 23 Jun 80 pp 1, 12

[Article: "ONCB Discloses That Thai Opium Crops Have Dropped Due to the Drought and Vigorous Suppression Activities"]

[Text] The director-general of the ONCB has disclosed that Thai opium yields have dropped this year because of the drought, which has reduced the amount of drugs available, and because of the constant suppression activities.

Police Major General Phao Sarasin, the director-general of the ONCB, told the newspaper SIAM RAT that, concerning drug suppression, the amount of heroin produced in Thailand this year has declined greatly because little opium was produced this year due to the 2 consecutive years of drought. However, the amount of heroin and morphine abroad has increased.

The director-general of the ONCB stated that, in general, the international drug situation is very disturbing because opium poppy is again starting to be grown in several countries such as Pakistan, Afganistan, Turkey and Iran. These countries, Afganistan and Pakistan for example, have political problems and this makes it difficult for drug control and suppression commissions to enter the countries to control and suppress opium production. This is why large amounts of drugs have been brought in and it is easier to contact European and Asian [markets] than from Thailand.

The director-general of the ONCB stated that, as for Thailand, the amount of narcotics used illegally this year is less than in any previous year because of the suppression activities

of officials in various sectors who have cooperated with each other. Even though there is some opium here, we have been able to intercept the chemicals needed to produce narcotics and keep them from being sold and, therefore, this has caused the amount of narcotics available to drop and prices have increased.

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THAILAND

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS SEIZED IN BANGKOK HOTEL

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 7 Jun 80 pp 1, 16

[Article: "During a Sale In a Downtown Hotel"]

[Text] Police seized heroin at a hotel in the middle of Bangkok while the sale was being made. Two suspects were arrested and 400 grams of heroin valued at more than 10 million baht were seized. A former sailor who had been dishonorably discharged from the navy and who had no way to earn a living started earning a living by selling heroin and so now he is in prison.

From an investigation conducted by Police Major General Thaloengsak Sangkhatawat, the commander of the Northern Bangkok Metropolitan Police, it was learned that heroin would be sold at Hotel 39 on Soi Phaeng Thammasat, Bunsiri Road, Sanchaophosua subdistrict, Phra Nakhon district, Bangkok. He therefore ordered Police Colonel Chamlong Tiemchaengphan, the commander of Bangkok Metropolitan Police Precinct 1 and police from the Samranrat police station, which included Police Lieutenant Colonel Boribun Wutipakdi, a chief inspector, and 10 other policemen, to hurry and surround the hotel mentioned above.

Finally, at almost 1430 hours, the officials saw a Thai man carrying a suitcase go into the hotel and go straight to Room 234 on the second floor of the hotel. At that time, the police officials rushed into the room and found the man mentioned above and a woman in the room. It was later learned that their names were Mrs Arirat Chirat, age 32, who lives at 212 Latmuang Road in Muang district, Suphanburi Province, and Mr Chakchai Unchai, age 28, a former sailor who was dishonorably discharged from the navy and who lives at 55 Village 1, Chimpfli subdistrict, Taling district, Bangkok. On searching the suitcase, the police found 400 grams of

heroin with an overseas value of approximately 10 million baht and a value of almost 100,000 baht in Thailand. From the investigation it was learned that Mr Chakchai had contacted Mrs Arirat in order to sell the heroin through her to Mr Chan, who is a friend of the younger brother of Mrs Arirat. However, before this could be carried out, they were arrested. At present, the authorities have both suspects in custody and they have the evidence in safe-keeping for further handling of the case.

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THAILAND

FOREIGNERS ARRESTED WITH HEROIN IN CHIENG MAI

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 18 May 80 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Two Foreigners Arrested With 15 Million Baht Worth of Heroin"]

[Text] As they were about to board an airplane, two international-level Italian heroin dealers were arrested while carrying heroin valued at 15 million baht. The commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 7 learned of their activities and ordered police to arrest them at the airport. Seized as evidence were 1.5 kilograms of good-quality heroin hidden in suitcases. Taken for interrogation, they confessed to having purchased the heroin in the mountains and that they had been taken there by a Thai guide. The police have them in custody and are continuing the case.

A news report from Chiang Mai Province stated that based on an investigation conducted by Police Major General Chumphon Saengchot, the commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 7, it was learned that two foreigners were planning to take heroin and fly from the province to Bangkok on a Thai Airways flight.

Thus, Police Major General Chumphon ordered Police Colonel Satcha Chukrasaewet, the commander of the police precinct, to take a force of policemen, including Police First Lieutenant Phatung China, the head of the Muang district drug suppression unit, and several other policemen, and go observe things at the exit gates at Chiang Mai airport.

At 2000 hours, the police authorities saw two foreigners, who were each carrying two suitcases, get out of a car and give airport their tickets for inspection. Thus, the police officials who were waiting for them came out of hiding and

and asked to inspect all four suitcases. They found 1.5 kilograms of good-quality No 4 heroin valued at 15 million baht hidden in the suitcases in a well-made second compartment. From checking their passports, it was learned that both were Italians. Their names were Mr Asoer Towani, age 24, and Mr Bassinomar Kophelsini, age 30. They were taken and turned over to Police First Lieutenant Sitthiphon Sichan, the officer on duty at the Muang district police station in Chiang Mai Province for further handling of the case.

From later investigations conducted by the police, it was learned that these two Italians were international drug dealers whose names were on the wanted lists of the Drug Suppression Unit of Interpol. Both had previously taken heroin from Chiang Mai and sold it in Italy many times. Both stayed at the Rin Kham Hotel.

In making contact to purchase heroin, seven Thais acted as guides and took them to buy the heroin from Maeo tribesmen on Bui mountain. During later interrogations of both men, they confessed to all the charges. The police thus have them in custody for further handling of the case.

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CANADA

EASING OF MARIHUANA LAWS CONSIDERED IMMINENT

Government To Introduce Legislation

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 12 Jun 80 p 1

[Text]

OTTAWA (CP) — Justice Minister Jean Chretien said yesterday the Government will introduce legislation within a few weeks to change penalties for the possession of marijuana.

Mr. Chretien also said in the House of Commons that the Government may change the law that requires that those convicted of importing marijuana get a minimum seven years in prison. It is one of the criminal laws under which a minimum sentence must be imposed.

He was responding to Bud Cullen, Liberal MP for Sarnia, who said sentencing in such cases should be left to the discretion of the courts.

The Justice Minister said the Government had promised in the Speech from the Throne opening Parliament in April to remove criminal penalties for simple possession of marijuana.

"I hope to do so a few weeks from now," he said, adding that legislation is being studied by the Cabinet.

The Throne Speech pledge was the latest in a series of promises in the

past eight years to lighten penalties for soft-drug offences. But all initiatives have stalled, often because of the Government's unwillingness to stir up those opposed to such changes.

A bill introduced by the Liberals in 1974 but not passed would have removed cannabis — marijuana and hashish — offences from the Narcotics Control Act and placed it, along with hallucinogenic drugs like LSD and speed, under the Food and Drug Act.

Simple possession for personal use would no longer be a criminal offence, but possession for the purpose of trafficking and importing would still be a crime.

In recent years, about 90 per cent of convictions under current laws were for simple possession. That usually brings first offenders a conditional discharge or small fine, along with a criminal record. However, the law provides for a fine of up to \$2,000 or seven years in prison.

Editorial Backs Law Revision

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 18 Jun 80 p 12

[Editorial: "Pot Laws: OMA Missing the Point"]

[Text]

The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) may be clinically and psychologically right in its latest advice on marijuana.

But as far as logic goes, it's way off.

At its Toronto meeting last week, the OMA's general council approved a resolution opposing any law revisions that would encourage the use of marijuana in Canada. Only a very few delegates spoke against the resolution.

The action was an obvious response to a statement by Justice Minister Jean Chretien a few days earlier that the government will introduce legislation within a few weeks to change penalties for the possession of marijuana.

The OMA resolution is well intentioned, and makes good sense from an idealistic point of view.

Doctors know from their work the terrible results of drug addiction. Research has lately indicated that occasional marijuana use is not the totally harmless pursuit that it was once widely believed to be.

One doctor at the OMA meeting, in fact, estimated that one marijuana cigarette has the long-term cancer-causing potential of 50 regular cigarettes.

What the resolution ignores, however, is the probable nature of the proposed law change. It is not designed to encourage the use of marijuana, but only to correct a law which has long ignored facts and made both law and law enforcement look ridiculous.

Everyone knows that a great number of Canadians use marijuana, and many think it harmless, or at

least less harmful than some other commonly used substances — alcohol for one.

Most Canadians know that there is a difference between marijuana and "hard" drugs, the narcotics which destroy the human will.

Yet not all Canadians know that the present law, which covers marijuana possession, the Narcotics Control Act, lumps marijuana together with the narcotic, and provides the same penalties.

In practice, the courts for years have been using much less severe penalties for simple possession of marijuana. The usual penalty for a first offender is a conditional discharge or a small fine, plus a criminal record. But the law provides for a fine of up to \$2,000 or seven years in prison — the same as for possession of heroin.

The proposed change will make simple possession of marijuana for personal use no longer a crime, although importing and possession for trafficking will remain as crimes.

If the amendments pass, Parliament will simply be facing reality, removing from the books a law whose provisions were long ago outdated, and whose strict enforcement would take up police time to the exclusion of everything else and fill the prisons far beyond their current overcrowded state.

The OMA would be using its time and resources much more wisely by pushing research into the exact effects of marijuana, or using its influence to discourage marijuana use, rather than telling the government how to update its own laws.

Drug Sale Size Considered

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jun 80 p 8

[Article by Linda Drouin]

[Excerpt]

There is a big difference between selling small amounts of marijuana to a friend and setting up a commercial operation for trafficking and that difference should be reflected in the law, Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan told a House of Commons committee Wednesday.

Kaplan was responding to a question from Svend Robinson (NDP—Burnaby) about the government's intentions to change the seven-year legal minimum sentence for trafficking which now applies to major drug dealers and small-scale exchanges between friends.

Large scale trafficking should still be harshly treated, Kaplan told the committee.

But he said he had misgivings about people he had met serving penitentiary terms for minor trafficking offences.

However, he added recent government initiatives to decriminalize marijuana should not be confused with legalizing the drug.

Possession would still be an offence, punishable with fines, but would not leave the offender with a criminal record.

The question is now before cabinet, he said.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

MARIHUANA SEIZURE MADE OFF EAST COAST

Ship's Crew Arrested

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 2 Jun 80 p 9

[Text]

SHELBURNE, N.S. (CP) — Nine men, eight from Colombia and one believed to be from the U.S., were scheduled to appear in court today on charges connected with the biggest haul of marijuana ever made on Canada's East Coast.

Five RCMP officers from the Canadian fisheries patrol vessel *Louisbourg* seized 22 tonnes of marijuana and arrested the crew of the *Patricia*, a 30-metre motor vessel, after boarding the vessel Saturday.

Police estimated the street value of the drug at more than \$50 million.

The *Patricia*, which police said was registered in

Belize, was steaming about 60 nautical miles off this south shore port.

U.S. and Canadian coast guards had the vessel under surveillance for several days as it made its way from southern waters into Canadian territory. It entered Canadian waters early Saturday.

More than 600 bales of marijuana, believed grown in Colombia, were found in holds on the *Patricia*, described as a former tour boat.

The largest haul of marijuana on record in Canada was 33.5 tonnes seized by RCMP May, 1979, in Sydney Inlet near Tofino, B.C. It had an estimated street value of \$100 million.

Ship Outside Territorial Waters

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 3 Jun 80 p 13

[Text]

HALIFAX, N.S. (UPC)  
— Nine men arrested off the Nova Scotia coast when 22 tonnes of marijuana and hashish were found aboard a boat will not face charges because authorities seized them and their ship outside Canada's territorial waters, police said Monday.

RCMP officials in Shelburne, where the motor vessel *Patricia* was taken after being seized Saturday, said the arrests took place outside the 12-mile territorial limit imposed for immigration, customs and drug regulations.

A spokesman said, however, charges likely would be laid by U.S. drug enforcement officials, who had been following the *Patricia* for several days.

The arrested men were taken to Halifax for interviews by federal immigration authorities.

William Marx, regional investigations director with the employment and immigration department, said the nine men—eight Columbians and one American—would be interviewed “to determine what action can be taken under the Immigration Act.”

Marx said his department wanted to know

whether the nine wish to remain in Canada or return to their homes. No application had been received from U.S. authorities for extradition of the men.

The contraband was wrapped in large bales in the hold of the Belize-registered, former tour boat. The drugs had an estimated street value of \$50 million to \$80 million according to the RCMP, making it the largest drug seizure in eastern Canada and the second largest ever in the country.

An RCMP officer in Halifax said the drugs would be burned but declined to say when or where.

CANADA

RARE DEFENSE BRINGS DRUG-CASE ACQUITTAL

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 11 Jun 80 pp 1, 2

[Text ]

VICTORIA (CP) — Eight men accused in the largest drug-importing case in Canadian history were found not guilty on the rarely-used defence of "necessity" Tuesday by a Victoria county court jury.

It was the first time such a defence had succeeded in a Canadian court.

The accused had testified they were taking the marijuana from Colombia to Alaska through international waters and had put into Canada only because of mechanical difficulties with the vessel.

Judge Montague Drake told the jury they could accept that as a valid defence if they believed the vessel and the accused were in imminent danger — a life or death situation.

For three men — William Terry Hines, 39, of San Rafael, Calif., Stephen Earl Johnson, 34, of Port Townsend, Wash., and Marco Antonio Lopera Penagos, 60, of Melin, Colombia — the jury's acceptance of the argument meant the end, at least for now, of a legal saga that began 13 months ago when RCMP and members of the Canadian Forces swooped on a Panamanian freighter aground in Sidney Inlet, 50 kilometres northwest of Tofino.

But the Crown served notice of appeal after the verdict was announced, claiming the judge erred in allowing the defence of necessity to go to the jury, that he refused

to allow prosecution rebuttal evidence on the defence of necessity, and that the jury's verdict was unreasonable and contrary to the evidence.

Five of the eight — Williams Francis Perka, 35, of Port Townsend, Paul Oscar Nelson, 27, of Seattle and Marina Del Rey, Calif., Michael Walter Butler, 29, Westport, Wash., Jalme Marin, 38, Marina Del Rey, Calif., and Albergipson Frasser-Afanador, 39, of Los Angeles — also face another trial on a charge of conspiracy to import marijuana.

They were released on their own recognizance on \$100 bonds to Aug. 5, when a trial date will be set. All eight had been held in custody since their arrests.

The eight were charged with importing 33.5 tons of Colombian marijuana into Canada between April 1 and May 23, 1979, and possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

Friends and relatives of the defendants hugged the accused when the verdict was announced after more than nine hours deliberation.

Witnesses claimed during the 29-day trial, longest in Victoria history, that the 45-metre vessel Samarkanda put into the isolated inlet to make repairs to its generator, the diesel-electric propulsion system



and to settle and transfer dirty fuel to other tanks.

Defence counsel said the Samarkanda's intended destination was a rendezvous more than 300 kilometres west of Juneau, Alaska, with a deep-sea seiner code-named Julia B.

Telling the jury it could accept the defence of necessity if satisfied the Samarkanda was in imminent danger, Judge Drake said common law holds that in highly exceptional circumstances, a criminal act may be excused. But the law of necessity can only apply in a life-or-death situation and he cautioned that the defence of necessity had never succeeded in a Canadian court.

While the ship was anchored, RCMP and Canadian Forces moved in, arresting 23 men and seizing a cargo of 625 bales of Colombian marijuana with a street value of \$13 million to \$15 million. Police said it was the largest pot seizure in Canadian history.

Four of the eight men acquitted Tuesday were aboard the Samarkanda and four were aboard the Seattle pleasure boat Whitecap which led the ship into Sidney Inlet.

The jury acquitted 15 Colombian crew members last month after Judge Drake accepted a defence motion there was not enough evidence for conviction. The 15 returned to homes in Colombia and Nicaragua.

Judge Drake also dismissed argument from the five defence counsel that the Samarkanda's cargo couldn't be positively identified as marijuana.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

EDITORIAL PRAISES JUDGE IN DRUG SENTENCING

Windsor THE SATURDAY WINDSOR STAR in English 28 Jun 80 p C6

[Editorial: "Drug Dealing: On the Softer Side"]

[Text]

Accustomed as we are to the incidence of drug-related murders and accounts of the all-too-seamy side of drug dealing, it is indeed refreshing to hear of Kiyoko Nagasawa.

A 30-year Japanese, Miss Nagasawa was sentenced to three months in jail by a Toronto court this week after being arrested at Toronto airport with six pounds of marijuana.

Under normal circumstances she could well have faced a minimum seven-year sentence for importing a narcotic into Canada, but apparently her air of innocence disarmed both the crown and the provincial court judge.

Despite the large amount, Miss Nagasawa was charged with simple possession only.

Her lawyer argued that "an individual who buys a side of beef isn't necessarily opening up a meat mar-

ket," but it was the woman's own story that charmed the court.

Attracted by reggae music heard in Japan she travelled to Jamaica where she met with the Rastafarian sect who introduced her to marijuana.

On her way back to Japan Miss Nagasawa flew into Toronto in the spring and was immediately picked out by a customs inspector who noticed a large, suspicious bulge on the side of her suitcase.

However, before the suitcase could be opened, the woman stated forthrightly that it contained "the herb marijuana" and suggested the customs officer should try it because "it is very nice."

In sentencing Miss Nagasawa, Provincial Judge Kenneth Langdon instructed her to thank the prosecutor for reducing the charge and added, "only the Almighty will know whether I was taken in."

CSO: 5320

CANADA

BRIEFS

B.C. DRUG LAW UPHOLD--Vancouver (CP)--British Columbia's controversial Heroin Treatment Act is valid, the B.C. Court of Appeal's five judges unanimously ruled Friday. In so doing, they overturned a ruling by Chief Justice Allan McEachern of the B.C. Supreme Court who found last October the legislation was in effect the same as the federal Narcotics Control Act and the Social Credit government had overstepped its bounds in passing the law in 1978. Mr. Justice M. M. McFarlane, who wrote the judgment, said provisions in the act for examination, apprehension and detention of dependent persons or patients are in no way intended to be punitive. "Although there may be occasions when a person will be detained or treated contrary to that person's desire, the object is nevertheless to treat and assist not to punish." [Text] [Windsor THE SATURDAY WINDSOR STAR in English 27 Jun 80 p A10]

CSO: 5320

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The Federal Police have arrested Hugo Daniel Florrieto, Argentine, 24 years of age and Carlos Nelson Rodriguez Icaza, Ecuadorean, 33 years of age for drug trafficking and seized 2.5 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride and 150 grams of cocaine base. The two drug traffickers are residents of La Paz, Bolivia, and carried the cocaine into Argentina inside special vests. They said that after selling part of the cocaine in Buenos Aires, they were planning to go to Spain to sell the rest, and that they have already made a profit of about \$1.5 million in cocaine sales in Madrid. The police are investigating if they are acting individually or if they belong to a drug ring. [PY072310 Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 6 Jul 80 p 5]

CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

SILES ZUAZO BLAMES COUP ON NARCOTICS RACKET

Zuazo's Statement

PY211716 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Jul 80

[Text] La Paz, 21 Jul (AFP)--Hernan Siles Zuazo, leader of the People's Democratic Union [UDP], asserted in a new message, released last night from his place of hiding and widely disseminated here, that the Mafia of the monstrous cocaine smuggling, which has made Bolivia sadly notorious, is behind the coup d'etat which took place in Bolivia last Thursday.

Siles Zuazo pointed out how Bolivia had drawn international attention by overcoming the frustrations produced by the elections of 1978 and 1979 and by the bloody coup of 1 November last year, and he praised the discipline with which the people went to the ballot boxes in the hope of establishing democracy in the country.

Siles Zuazo described the events characterizing the coup and called attention to the presence of paramilitary elements trained by an Argentine mission incorporated in the armed forces; he also made charges of selective repression.

Siles Zuazo said that the clumsy proclamations that wish to legalize the abominable fascist attack base themselves on alleged frauds in the last elections, the existence of an economic and moral crisis, political and labor anarchy and the alleged introduction of foreign doctrines. To make the legal farce complete, the so-called junta of commanders has put the 1967 constitution back in force, as far as it does not oppose the national reconstruction project, the name which has been given to this crime against the fatherland, he added. In other words, he continued, those who submerged the country in that crisis which they are now criticizing as a cover for their corruption, smuggling and illegal enrichment are cynical enough to attribute their own misdeeds and weaknesses to the democratic process.

Further Remarks

PY211015 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 21 Jul 80

[Text] The UDP leader added that the true objectives of the government is to continue looting the country without any kind of restraint, preserving the interests linked with the drug traffic which have converted Bolivia into an international threat.

He added that this regime, which is not even unanimously supported by the armed forces in whose name the people are being oppressed, should be steadily and systematically repudiated by the nation because the struggle of the Bolivian people for democracy has gained international solidarity and that struggle will not be isolated through terror or crime.

The message concludes with a call for freedom: "Let us struggle with intelligence and determination; fascism will not be able to outwit the people. Bolivia will never be conquered."

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BOGOTA NEWSPAPER REPRINTS INTERESTING AD

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 6 Jul 80 p 5-A

[Ad appearing in DIARIO DE LA COSTA, Wednesday, 2 July 1980]

PRIVATE PILOT

[Text] With broad experience in eluding radar and landing on little known airfields wishes to connect with serious firm that will guarantee at least one trip abroad per month. For more information, [write] Apartado Aereo No. 56565, Bogota.

CSO: 5300

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA PLANTS, FIELDS DESTROYED--Tegucigalpa--At least 2,184 marihuana plants with a black market value of 1 million lempiras were burned yesterday at El Picacho, a few kilometers from the capital, after they were seized at a clandestine plantation in Dulce Nombre de Culmi, Olancho. The hallucinogenic grass was identified by Dr Marcio Gomez Robelo when narcotics agents took the plants to the Criminal Court of First Instance which is under attorney Alba Nieto de Banegas, who has brought criminal charges against those involved in their cultivation. The three persons implicated are being held in custody at the central prison on bail until such time as they are sentenced in accordance with the law. On another subject, it is reported that several narcotics agents have destroyed another marihuana crop of more than 17,000 plants in the area known as Cofradia in Los Palmitos. Investigations have been stepped up to locate the brains behind these plantings since apparently it was several "city people" who recruited peasants to plant the crops, telling them that it was something else and paying them large sums of money. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jun 80 p 2] 9204

CSO: 5300



PANAMA

BRIEFS

DRUG CONFISCATION STATISTICS--The narcotics office has succeeded in seizing an estimated 9 million balboas in drugs during the first 5 months of 1980. Most arrests of drug traffickers were made at the Tocumen International Airport. Similarly, most of the persons involved were U.S. citizens in transit through Panama. Most drugs came from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, with Nassau as their destination. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 80]

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

FOUR LSD TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN VALENCIA

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 1 Jul 80 Sec 4 p 30

[Text] A young U.S. citizen and three women (two Argentines and a Honduran) were arrested by members of the PTJ [Technical Judicial Police] Drug Control Division with varying amounts of LSD worth an estimated 300,000 bolivars.

The report was released yesterday by the head of the PTJ Drug Control Division, Maximiliano Lopez, who identified the individuals as Mark James Affhalter, 24, of Michigan, who works for the merchant marine; Maria Ines Morales Perez, 23; Maria Graciela Gonzalez, 28, both Argentines, and Alba Maria Reyes Rodriguez, 29, of Honduras.

Maximiliano Lopez explained that the three women were arrested by drug agents who raided Apartment 23 on the 8th Floor of the Pasaje Bolivar Building located on Francisco Solano Lopez Avenue, Sabana Grande.

"The agents found 200 doses of LSD, 100 grams of marihuana and a revolver," he adds. "But the most important aspect was that we broke the connection used by U.S. citizen Mark James Affhalter. Affhalter attempted to reestablish his business in Valencia, Carabobo State, and that is where we arrested him."



Maria Inés Morales.  
(Rep. Corrales).



Alba Maria Reyes Rodriguez.  
(Rep. Corrales).



Maria Graciela González.  
(Rep. Corrales).

8599  
CSO: 5300

35

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HASHISH ON BEACH--Today 12 kg of hashish was washed up from the sea at Hof Yavne and its value was estimated as 6 million Israeli pounds. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that large quantities of hashish are sometimes washed up from the sea on the southern coast and the police think that this is linked with smuggling. It appears that ships sailing from Lebanon to Egypt drag the drug on a rope and when a police boat approaches, the smugglers cut the rope. [TA092042 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Jul 80 TA]

GAZA HASHISH SEIZED--Two Bedouin drug dealers were caught in the Gaza Strip this morning. They had 140 kg of hashish, worth about 6 million Israeli pounds, in their possession. [TA041824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Jul 80 TA]

CSO: 5300

KUWAIT

TWO SRI LANKA CITIZENS CAUGHT WITH HASHISH

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 May 80 p 4

[Article: "Arrest of Two Sri Lanka Citizens Working on a Ship in the Port for Procuring Hashish From Pakistan"]

[Text] Investigation department agents of al-Jahra' governorate have arrested two Sri Lanka citizens named (Masi) and (Tay An) for drug trafficking. The two men were in possession of a quantity of hashish estimated at 4 kg.

The suspects were arrested as a result of a plan which al-Jahra' investigation department inspector Maj Muhammad Dahi al-Hawwas drew up to catch the two men. The suspects were working on a ship at anchor in regional waters, and had been able to sell a quantity of hashish inside the country.

The facts surrounding this case were uncovered when an individual by the name of Sami was arrested on the charge of drug trafficking. Under interrogation, Sami gave information which indicated that he had obtained the drugs from the two suspects working on one of the ships in the port.

After obtaining an arrest and search warrant from the public prosecutor, investigation department personnel proceeded to al-Shuwaykh port to arrest the second suspect and search his quarters on board the ship. However, the suspect had already made his way to the city of Kuwait, so the investigators prepared a well-contrived trap to apprehend him. He was arrested upon his return, and admitted to having procured an estimated 4 kg of hashish from Karachi. He had been able to sell three portions of the hashish to the suspect named Sami for 200 dinars. When asked about the rest of the hashish, the suspect said that he had sold it to other individuals.

Asked if anyone else participated with him in this activity, he admitted to having a partner from Sri Lanka named (Masi) who worked on the same ship. This individual was arrested and admitted to the same things mentioned in his accomplice's statements. In addition, he confessed to having bought approximately 1 kg of hashish in Karachi, Pakistan, at the same time that his accomplice had purchased the 3 kg with the intention of selling it in Kuwait.

8591  
CSO: 4802

AUSTRIA

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS STATISTICS--This year, 246 persons have already been arrested or sentenced under the provisions of the drug abuse law. Since January, about 3 kilos of heroin has been seized by police. On 28 June, Vienna police arrested for the first time an Austrian heroin wholesaler, 35-year old Morst Hecht. Some 700 grams of heroin, worth 2.2 million schillings, were confiscated in his apartment. [Text] [Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 3 Jul 80 pp 1, 10 AU]

HEROIN SMUGGLERS ARRESTED--on 29 June Vienna police arrested 34-year old Pakistani citizen Ali Mohammad Yasim Asghar at Vienna's southern railroad terminus, who had 220 grams of heroin hidden in his shoes. In the apartment of a second Pakistani, who had met Asghar at the station police found another 600 grams of heroin. [Text] [Vienna KURIER in German 4 Jul 80 p 18 AU]

CSO 5300

CYPRUS

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS, UNIDENTIFIED MATERIAL SEIZED--As the result of a search conducted by police at a house in Tatlisu on 7 July some 25 drams (1 dram = 3.21 gr.) of narcotics were found covered in nylon inside a sack. Also, in the same house a still unidentified liquid found in a receptacle was seized. [Excerpt] [Nicosia BOZKURT in Turkish 10 Jul 80 p 1]

CSO: 5300

GREECE

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ACROSS EVROS RIVER HAMPERED

Athens TA NEA in Greek 19 Jun 80 p 5

[Article by V. Kavvathas]

[Text] Kipoi Bridge, Evros--A few days ago, the Komotini Assize Court imposed a sentence of imprisonment for 16 years and a fine of 1 million drachmas on the 25-year-old Netherlander (Michel Bertolemi). In collaboration with his friend of the same nationality, (Richard Van Dyk), 31 years old--who was sentenced to 5 years in prison--he tried to bring into our country 473 kilograms of hashish and 900 grams of heroin valued at 200 million drachmas.

The two Netherlanders--who were arrested last October at the customs post at Kipoi Bridge on the Evros River--maintained to the court that the narcotics were placed in their automobile by Turkish smugglers!

The customs prosecution witnesses testified that "this defense is pleaded often by smugglers when they are caught carrying narcotics from one country to the other...."

"What we have here is a 'sweet'"--they stated to TA NEA--"which they suck on from the moment of the disclosure up to the time of sentencing."

They go on to say that the people they catch are the "small-time operators"--the "carriers" of the narcotics. And this is because the brains of this business do not take the risk of making trips. Thus the customs officials nab individuals who "work" for another boss.

The Evros an "Open" Channel for Narcotics

The revelation follows that:

The repeated successes which in any case are being seen there at the Kipoi Bridge of the Evros--successes which just recently have compelled the smugglers to change their routes--cannot be considered to have had a suppressive effect, since they affect only 10 percent of the total "shipments" which "cross" over the Evros.

The remaining 90 percent, which is destined for our own and foreign market-places, slips by through various points on the river. Really, this is the truth, unfortunately. The Evros has been the open "channel" for narcotics for many years.

The smugglers "prefer" it because it is 230-250 kilometers long, it is "fordable" at many spots, and it is largely unguarded. This does not mean that the would-be smugglers do not face the possibility of coming upon a patrol. But let us be honest: Such possibilities are realized "once in a blue moon."

For its part, the group of customs officials which "trips up" the narcotics smugglers--here on the Kipoi Bridge of the Evros, the main "gateway to Europe" from the East--keeps a certain "secret" which is the basis for its repeated successes.

In the discussion which I had with various officers of this group, they assured me--with enigmatic smiles--that the "secret" is the psychology of the smuggler at the time when his car is being checked, and in addition to this their powers of observation in conjunction with their know-how about the construction of a particular vehicle.

They say that "when we see that something is amiss with the person being checked out, we continue our work until we are absolutely confident that he is not carrying any 'stuff.' Of course, we do not let a single screw go unchecked, because in many cases the discovery has been made from a single detail. For example, one day a BMW arrived at the 'junction' in front of the post. Its driver seemed sure that we would not find anything, and he stood rather quietly in a corner. He became impatient only when he saw that we five persons had been searching his vehicle for 8 whole hours without finding anything. Finally, a colleague noticed that there was something unusual about a screw (the head of which was 'chewed up'). 'Here it is,' he said....We unscrewed it and found a 'funnel' and 15 other 'holes' filled with narcotics."

They are Not "Tip-offs"

At this point we cleared up something which is rumored about very widely--and which is connected with the successes which are enjoyed at any rate by the customs officials of Kipoi Bridge.

"It is said that most cases of smugglers which you nab are 'tip-offs.' That is, your informants acquaint you with what is arriving at the customs post. What is the truth about this conjecture?"

"Anything of this sort is practically impossible--and we cannot consider it a reliable tool for doing our work properly. In other words, we do not rely on the information which may come our way, because in the meantime a queue is created of 'suspect' automobiles at the post. Thus,



we are left with nothing but our personal diligence (our awareness of what we are doing, and what we are contributing to society as a whole), our experience, and our powers of observation, in conjunction with a resolve to not let pass any of these 'evil-doers.' Finally, we do not manage to catch the entire 'army' of smugglers, but we nab quite a few important carriers. This is spread about quite widely among their circles, and this restrains the would-be 'importers,' who choose other routes for carrying across their 'shipments.' Because nothing stops these people: Neither the punishments, nor the fines, nor the confiscations of their expensive automobiles, nor possible misfortune. They stick at nothing!"

Another thing which emerges from the discussion: "Some of them also have loaded guns on them--ready to use if they consider it expedient to do so. These are soldiers of fortune--we repeat--who 'stick at nothing,' who do their work by themselves."

The "Small-time Operators"

Nevertheless, most of the carriers are not businessmen. They have no idea of who is behind the consignment which they take over. They know only that they will have at their disposal an expensive car, will go somewhere in the East (for example, Lebanon, or Turkey), will be given the "shipment" somewhere, will spend their vacation, and at some point in time they will carry their shipment over to Europe in order to collect their travel expenses. However, some of them get "tripped up" by the Evros customs officials, and these end up in the Cassandra prisons (which "hosts" about 100 of such crooks), and their cars end up at the customs yard at Alexandroupolis, until they are "released" and are sold off.

For a small amount of heroin, they can "pay" millions of drachmas and also remain in prison for a number of years!

There is another category of "small-time operators" who have the simple thought: I will do some traveling, I will get a little "stuff," which I will then sell somewhere, and I will thus be able to cover my expenses."

The "Hiding Places" and the "Tricks"

Certain smugglers study their operations for a very long time--operations which end ingloriously at the Evros customs-house.

The customs officials say that "they create incredible 'hiding places' in their cars before setting off on their job. Some veterans create the impression that there is a hiding place in one area, whereas they have hidden the narcotics in another spot. In this way they try to lead us astray, and they would succeed if we did not have the stubbornness which we are noted for.

"These hiding places can be in the gas tank of the car--where usually a 'sandwich' is made: They form an empty space in the middle of the gas tank, put the heroin in, and 'surround' it with gasoline. Often they are betrayed by the 'echo' of such a hiding place, which differs from the corresponding sound of the rest of the gas tank.

"In other cases they fill the seats or the trunk with a large amount of narcotics. Of course, they also create camouflaged conditions, so that nobody suspects their existence.

"A common hiding place is the spare tire of the car, which is easy to fill and which is revealed equally easily: We let a little air out of the spare and 'detect' the hiding place from the smell."

At one time, there had been discussions about "strengthening" the customs houses--which are engaged in catching narcotics smugglers--by means of trained dogs to do this work. The customs officials believe that no matter how "trained" these beasts might be, they could never replace human beings. And this is because if it is assumed that the smuggler has taken care to obliterate the smell of the narcotic which he is carrying through the agency of something else, the bloodhound will not "catch on" to it.

On the other hand, if the customs official does not detect it with his nose he will locate it with something else--the experience and the human capabilities in general which he has. Besides, there is the problem of heroin--which has no smell and thus will not be noticeable to the nose of the dog, no matter how "powerful" it is and no matter how much relevant training he may have had. In other words, there can be no talk of dogs at a time when, for example, the Italians are beginning to leave us dumbfounded with their ingenuity.

And since we are on the subject of the Italians, let us say a few words about the methods which they use in their operations: Usually they put heroin and morphine in "hiding places" which are above suspicion, and then they play-act: They protest because supposedly we are damaging their automobiles, and they make "representations," certain that we are not going to find where they have hid their drugs.

By way of example, I cite certain facts pertaining to the tricks and the hiding places of narcotics smugglers (Note: Many of these are from the archives of the customs officials and from the publications of the local newspaper, ELEVETHERI THRAKI).

Five kilograms of top-quality heroin were found in the car of the Iranian (Mansour Sandi). He had put the drugs in special hiding places in the "chassis" of the vehicle.

A few days later: An Italian couple were caught because 348 grams of heroin were found in the axles of the rear tires of their car. The people in question are (Chiudo Romberto) and (Mattidi Editi), who passed through the Evros customs station to Turkey at the same time that the "bloodhounds" of this post were catching the Iranian with his 5 kilograms!

(Note: Very often the news is published in the Turkish press that "the security authorities have discovered a secret laboratory for preparing heroin. Such a place was found recently in the city of Gaziantep in south-east Turkey").

An epilogue, in the words at all times of the customs officials themselves:

The "Nightmare"

"When you read in the 'fillers' of a newspaper that at the Kipoi customs-house on the Evros an English smuggler was caught because he tried to secretly carry into Greece 66 kilograms of hashish (concealed in hiding places on an expensive 6-cylinder Jaguar), perhaps it does not make a great impression on you. Even less so when the case does not concern you personally ("What does it matter to me--that is, seeing that I am not in that circle, nor do I know the man, nor am I endangered by this affair. Besides, he (the Englishman) is the first one, or the last one, who has engaged in such business.

And when all is said and done, what is 66 kilograms compared to the tons which the "Gloria" was carrying when it was caught at the Isthmus of Korinthos some time ago...?")

"The next day you forget it, and if it happens that you again read about something related to this, you throw it into the ossuary of routine matters. But the events follow their course and write a story which should not slip by "unnoticed," but should keep all of us--citizens and authorities alike--on the alert. Because what we have to deal with here is a nightmare which is stepping over our thresholds, and entering into our homes from a direction we do not expect--into the veins, into the blood of our children--and is destroying us as individuals, as families, and as a people more generally."

12114  
CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS CONDUIT--Teams affiliated with the Ankara Central Narcotics Bureau seized 3.5 billion lira worth of heroin in operations undertaken during the first 5 months of 1980. It has been learned that 507 kilos of hashish and 23.5 kilos of morphine base were seized in operations mounted during the same period. The operations undertaken by Narcotics Bureau teams at the same time have revealed an interesting fact. Only 10 grams of opium on one person were seized during the first 5 months of this year in our country which is the land of opium. Authorities stated that this was achieved as the result of stringent controls by opium teams. Narcotics Bureau personnel have noted that narcotic substances come to Turkey through the Middle East, that Turkey in this regard is used only as a conduit, and that the real markets are in Europe. According to experts, smugglers in Turkey are tasked only with transporting the substances. They take the heroin and morphine base out of the country for an average 200,000 lira per kilo. The heroin transported to Europe through Turkey can be sold for as much as \$1,200,000 a kilo. According to the reports of narcotics experts, some groups, by converting the narcotics passing through Turkey into cash, send arms back to Turkey. In Turkey much more can be made off these weapons than from the sale of narcotics. The same reports state that a major portion of the weapons introduced into Turkey and distributed to illegal groups were brought into the country by highway and transported by TIR's. It is also stated in the same reports that part of the arms smuggling is done through the Black Sea. [Text] [Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 16 Jul 80 p 3]

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

LIVERPOOL CANNABIS HAUL--Half a ton of cannabis worth more than 500,000 pounds was found in four empty crates on the Nigerian freighter River Oli which docked in Liverpool yesterday. Customs men made a routine examination of the cargo ship from Lagos and found the herbal cannabis. Recently drugs worth more than 5 million pounds have been seized in Liverpool and Anglesey. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Jun 80 p 36]

DRUGS SEIZED IN GUERNSEY--Customs officers and police in Guernsey have seized more than one ton of cannabis resin, with a street value of over 2 million pounds, during a search of the 43 ft yacht Anntoo in St Peterport harbour. In the magistrates' court yesterday William Loots, 32, of Amsterdam, and Mario Clerici, 32, of Turin, were remanded in custody for a week charged with possessing cannabis. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 26 Jun 80 p 1]

TUNNELING GANG SNATCHES CANNABIS--Drug smugglers are believed to have staged a "hole in the wall" raid yesterday to snatch a cannabis haul from a Merseyside dock's security pound. The haul is thought to have been left in the pound, in an attempt to trap the drug dealers collecting it. But the raiders tunneled through a wall of the shed at the Royal Seaforth Dock, Crosby, to foil the burglar alarm. The drug was in two large wooden packing cases labelled "household effects." Customs men, who have seized millions of pounds worth of the drug at Merseyside this year, became suspicious when the two wooden packing cases arrived in Liverpool from the Caribbean without papers about a fortnight ago. The cases were marked for Liverpool, but were in a container landed at Greenock in Scotland. All Customs and Excise officials would say yesterday was "we have been informed that there was a burglary in a transit shed at Liverpool docks. The contents of some packages awaiting Customs clearance might have been removed." But a spokesman for Mersey Docks and Harbour Company said: "A small amount of cannabis was found near the cases and an investigation started." [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 27 Jun 80 p 17]

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END