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14 October 1980

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 43/80)

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WORLDWIDE REPORT  
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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THAILAND

TREATMENT FOR DRUG ADDICTS AT THAM KRABOK MONASTERY DESCRIBED

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 9 Sep 80 p 3

[Report by special correspondent Ettore Mo]

[Excerpts] Bangkok--Tham Krabok is about 100 kilometers from Bangkok, to the north, in the area of Saraburi. The white monastery buildings and the few wooden houses of the village are clustered at the foot of the Prong Pran Hills, a chain of low hills of solid green except for a bit of red at the top from some spurs of rock. When I arrive, four or five youths, seated on top of piles of rock already reduced to gravel, are continuing to break the stones with constant, regular hammer blows, tac tac tac, as if timed by a metronome. This, too, is part of the therapy.

The treatment lasts 10 days.

The remedy is here. It is a liquid extracted from a hundred different herbs, most of which (80 percent) grow in the fields and woods around the monastery. It is produced by a primitive method. Part of the herbs are dried and reduced to powder; the rest are boiled in two big iron cylinders, into which, at a certain point, the powder is also poured. The result is a dark brown vegetable soup, a sort of rather thick mush; which the monk-pharmacists then put up in bottles.

Every morning for 5 successive days the patient must swallow his portion, which is 30 centiliters; the mixture is so repellent and creates such a turmoil in the stomach that vomiting is almost immediate. "And naturally," explains the abbot Chamroon Parnchand, to whom the direction of Tham Krabok is entrusted, "the body rids itself of the poisonous residues, and at the same time the desire to turn to the drug is eliminated."

From the second day on, the treatment provides for a sauna every day "to purify the body" and some pills (also obtained from the miraculous hundred herbs) to take the second and third nights before going to bed. The pills have the same disruptive effect in the intestines, and if any poison has remained in the body after the morning oral rite you can be sure that it will be violently expelled during the nocturnal hours.

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Work is the other side of the therapy. After the first 5 days of turning the stomach upside down, the boys find a job: those who are not breaking stones while singing hymns spade up the ground or water the flowers. All goes well. The important thing is to stay active, to forget that "insidious little demon," says the abbot, that is always lying in wait. One little team is working on the framework of a building under construction at the entrance to the village; that is how the zealous monks of Tham Krabok have taken advantage of the free labor.

The monastery's work with drug addicts began in 1959, after the Thai government had prohibited the use of opium. "We have not kept a precise count," says Abbot Chamroon, "but from 1960 to 1962 we had something like 10,000 patients, and from 1963 on, 40,000 to 50,000. We have had many foreigners: 1,500 from Laos, 200 from Malaysia, 300 from the Shan States. Then came the occidentals. In the last 3 years we have had about 60 of them: Americans, English, Germans, Swiss, Austrians, Icelanders. Italians, no. I do not recall having seen any of them."

The problem of drug addiction is serious in Thailand, which with its 600,000 addicts is competing for first place with the United States. "Born with an opium pipe in his mouth" is a Bangkok expression, and recent polls show that 2 percent of the population (47 million) take the "stuff." "We have 52 institutions, public and private, for treatment of drug addicts," says General Pow Sarasin, head of the narcotics control agency, "but they are not enough." Not long ago 3,000 heroin addicts sought hospital treatment, but after 6 months over 70 percent of heroin addicts are found to have relapsed into the habit (as against 50 percent of opium addicts).

It is therefore natural enough that the government looks with favor upon the impressive salvage work of the monks of Tham Krabok, and in 1963, to show its approval and solidarity, gave the monastery substantial pieces of ground and even a building. "Our work," says the abbot, "does not end when the boy completes the 10 days and returns home cured and with the intention of not taking drugs any more. We follow them, check on them at a distance, by letter or even by going to see them; these checkups begin about 3 months after the release of the patient. The results? We can draw these conclusions: for 70 percent the cure is successful; 25 percent relapse into the habit; we lose track of the remaining 5 percent."

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THAILAND

MEO TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN CHIANG MAI

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 31 Jul 80 pp 1, 16

[Article: "Two Drug Traffickers Who [Once] Worked For Lao Su Arrested"]

[Text] Two Meo tribesmen who once worked for Lao Su were arrested while transporting opium and heroin down from the mountains to sell it. Police disguised as merchants asked to buy the drugs. However, while they were talking to each other, the tribesmen, numbering about 30 people, who were transporting the 70 kilograms of opium saw some unusual movements and fled into the mountains. The police were able to arrest only two people; they seized evidence valued at 50 million baht.

From Chiang Mai, a reporter has reported that, at 1100 hours yesterday, Police Colonel Krasaewet, the police superintendent, led a force of policemen disguised as merchants to contact a group of villagers to buy opium in Pa Haeo hamlet, village 11, Mae Daeng District, Chiang Mai Province. This was done because it had been learned that this hamlet had been producing opium and selling large quantities to Thai, Chinese and foreign merchants for a long time. In order to make the arrests, the superintendent ordered all the policemen to disguise themselves as merchants. When the police were in position, he ordered one of them to go make contact and ask to buy opium for 100,000 baht.

While they were waiting, it appears that 30 Meo tribesmen came down from the hills carrying 70 kilograms of opium and heroin valued at 50 million baht. The official made contact and asked to buy all of it. However, while they were bargaining, the Meo tribesmen saw some unusual movements by the policemen. They fled into the hills, leaving the evidence behind. The police arrested two brothers, Mr Laolu Saethao, age 48, and

Mr Chapao Saethao, age 38. Both of these tribesmen once worked for Lao Su, an international heroin dealer, but they separated from him and are now engaged in their own drug trafficking operations.

The police turned both of these people over to Police First Lieutenant Phon Wannasaeng, the officer on duty at the Chiang Mai District police station, together with the evidence and three pistols for further handling of the case.

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THAILAND

HEROIN, TRAFFICKERS PICKED UP IN CHIANG MAI

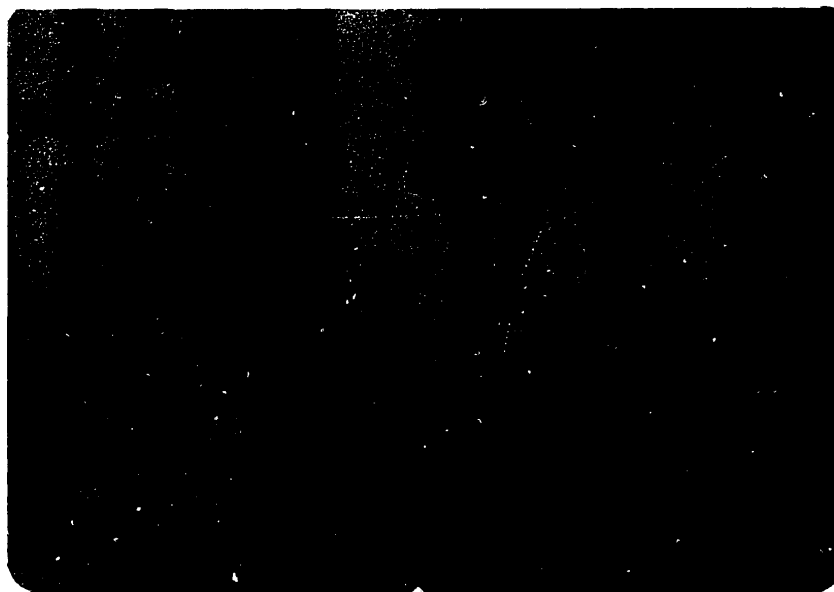
Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 28 Jul 80 pp 1, 16

[Article: "Heroin Valued at 6 Million Baht Confiscated"]

[Text] At 1530 hours on 26 July, Police First Lieutenant Prasit Khlaimuk, the head of the Chiang Mai Provincial Drug Control Unit, led a force of police and surrounded the house at 34/1 Soi 1, Maninophrat Street, Siriphum Commune, Muang District, Chiang Mai Province. It had been learned that heroin was secretly bought and sold at this address.

While the authorities were laying in wait, the four men and one woman who were in the house rushed out of the house and fled in all directions. The police gave chase and arrested three of them. The other two escaped. The house was then searched and four bags of No 4 heroin weighing 1.5 kilograms and valued at 260,000 baht [in Thailand] or at 6 million baht abroad was found. The three were placed under arrest and the evidence was seized. All were turned over to Police First Lieutenant Sawat Chantharaprida, the officer on duty at the Muang District, Chiang Mai Province, police station, for investigation.

From the investigation it was learned that the suspects were Mr Hanping Saechoen, age 48, a Ho Chinese, Mr Wirachai Homniyom, age 35, and Mr Niran Meksaen, age 30. The two who escaped were Mrs Inchoem Saechoen, the wife of Mr Hanping, and Mr Prayun (last name unknown).



[Photo caption]: Mr Hanping, Mr Wirachai and Mr Niran, the three drug dealers who were arrested and the evidence valued at 6 million baht.

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THAILAND

BRIEFS

HEROIN TO BE BURNED--The Office of the Narcotics Control Board is making preparations to burn approximately 600 kilograms of confiscated heroin on 8 August. A news report from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) has stated that General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, will lead the burning of the heroin on Friday, 8 August 1980, at the Public Danger Relief Center on the Super Highway. These drugs were confiscated in 1979. The news report also stated that, concerning the drugs to be burned, approximately 600 kilograms of heroin and 2,000 kilograms of other types of drugs will be burned. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 30 Jul 80 p 3] 11943

NARCOTICS EFFORT IN SOUTH--In a period of 6 months, the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 4 made arrests in 368 cases involving heroin and 109 cases involving the selling of smuggled ore. Yesterday morning, Major General Chitrasen Aknithat, the deputy commissioner of the provincial 4, talked with a reporter at the Parut Palace about the results achieved in controlling narcotics within the area of jurisdiction of the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 4. He said that in the 6-month period extending from January through June 1980, narcotics control activities did not achieve the results they should have. It is felt that the drug [problem] is spreading widespreadly. Large amounts of heroin and marijuana were seized. There were 368 heroin busts and 431 suspects were arrested. As for marijuana, there were 312 drug busts and 423 suspects were arrested. As for opium, there were 13 busts and 12 suspects were arrested. As for madder plants, there were five busts and five suspects were arrested. The deputy commissioner of the provincial 4 further stated that since the plan to control sea violations was implemented on 10 January this year, very good results have been achieved in arresting people for selling smuggled ore. Arrests were made in 109

cases and 155 suspects were arrested. Evidence such as seven rafts with equipment, 15 fishing boats with equipment, 30,320.5 kilograms of tin ore mixed with sand, approximately 4,242.15 kilograms of calx, 2,133 kilograms of smelted tin ore, four firearms and one car was also confiscated. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 30 Jul 80 p 3] 11943

HEROIN SEIZED IN PHATTHALUNG--A young teacher has been arrested for selling heroin in front of a movie theater. He sadly confessed that he had obtained it from an agent in front of the train station and had been selling it for a long time to earn extra money. A selfish teacher was arrested at 0900 hours on 24 July. From an investigation conducted by the authorities, it was learned that a heroin gang frequently sold heroin in front of the Colosseum Theater on Prachabamrung Road in Duhasawan Commune, Muang District, Phatthalung Province. Thus, at the time and day mentioned above, police officials, led by Police Major Phaibun Tunrayanisaka, the chief inspector at the Muang District, Phatthalung Province, police station, went to the theater. They discovered a young man -- whom they later learned was Mr Somkit Khwanmong, age 26, who lives at 12 Prachabanrung Road in Muang District, Phatthalung Province and who is a grade three [rank] teacher at the Laemtanok village school in Khuankhanun District, Phatthalung Province -- carrying four medium-sized cardboard boxes. The authorities took him for interrogation and searched him. The authorities learned that good-quality heroin valued at approximately 10,000 baht was hidden in the boxes. Mr Somkhit confessed that he purchased the heroin from a major agent at the Phatthalung train station and then took it and sold it to various addicts. He had engaged in this for a long time. The police thus placed Mr Somkhit, a bad teacher, under arrest for further handling of the case. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 26 Jul 80 pp 1, 16] 11943

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BOLIVIA

FURTHER PRESS COMMENTARY ON MILITARY DRUG CONNECTION

Officials Linked to Drugs

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 26 Aug 80 p 16

[Article by Gregorio Selser: "At The Request of the Military Regime A Miami Judge Frees Drug Trafficker"]

[Text] On the eve of the beginning of hearings by a U.S. Senate subcommittee called by Senator Dennis DeConcioi, Democrat from Arizona, for the investigation of public threats made by Col Luis Arce Gomez, Bolivian minister of interior, on a greater "flow" of narcotics traffic toward the United States, new revelations are shaking the present calm climate of Washington.

The main point now is the surprising release of Alfredo ("Cutuchi") Gutierrez ordered by the courts of Miami. He is a 44-year-old Bolivian, owner of a cattle ranch and an air taxi company of the department of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in eastern Bolivia.

As we reported in a recent story, Gutierrez and his friend Jose Roberto Gasser Terrassas were arrested in May 1980 in Miami by federal agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the agency for the suppression of drug traffic, when they were attempting to "pass" 854 pounds of pure cocaine (some 390 kg), considered the largest quantity of smuggled drugs intercepted at one time up to that time by the authorities.

Two Entrepreneurs, Captains of Industry

"Cutuchi" Gutierrez is the son of Dario Gutierrez, powerful sugar manufacturer in Santa Cruz and at the same time owner of the rightwing newspaper EL MUNDO, and a prominent figure in the terrorist organization Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB).

Jose Roberto Gasser Terrassas, "businessman" of 37 years-of-age, is the son of "Old Man Gasser," who began his career as a smuggler of anything from Paraguay and wound up as a powerful figure in the sugar manufacturing branch. The son opened the "branch agency" of narcotics traffic at the same time that he worked as president of the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce and Industry, president of the Bolivian Private Industry Federation, a member of the board of directors of EL MUNDO and also a prominent figure in the FSB and presumably its largest financial supporter.

Both captains of industry accomplished the feat of the record single shipment of cocaine (854 pounds), although they could not conclude the operation with complete success. The judge who heard the case set bond of one million dollars--yes, dollars--which Gasser Terrassas paid without blinking, after which he left the United States. Less lucky than he, Gutierrez was bound under a bond of three million dollars, which because it was not paid, caused him to be held in a Dade County jail.

#### The Garcia Meza Dictatorship Blesses Gutierrez

The scandal today consists of the revelation that on 30 June--the coup of the Cocadollars took place on 17 July--a Florida state court reduced the three-million-dollar bond to just one million, which Gutierrez paid immediately and in turn left for Bolivia. Questioned by the press, the members of the aforementioned court argued that the reduction was based on the fact that the criminal resorted to legal rules which allow the prolonging of an investigation for gathering more proof against the accused. Since Miami newsmen are very alert because several weeks ago it was revealed that some judges were being bribed by the world drug traffic Maffia, they nosed about in the records until they discovered that Gutierrez while in prison presented a statement sworn before the court, whose text, signed by high-level Bolivian officials, among them the present minister of interior, Col Luis Arce Gomez, told of the lack of a prior criminal record by Gutierrez, attesting to his "good character and nature."

The fact that there is no prior criminal record is nothing more than proof of how tainted Bolivian justice is because Gutierrez, as well as Gasser Terrassas, are very well known in their country as important figures in drug smuggling. The court set the trial date for next October on which date it is taken for granted that neither criminal will show his face in the United States. The lawyer for both of them in Miami, Jeffrey Weiner, up to now has shown great skill in avoiding reporters who want to ask questions about his clients.

#### The Bank of America Also

The surprising thing about this puzzle, which has moved from Miami to Washington, is the appearance of Carlos Aguirre, Bank of America agent



in Bolivia. Drug traffic also appears to be mixed up in here, based on an incident which took place in 1975 in which two Bolivians were arrested in Montreal, Canada, for illegal traffic in cocaine. At that time Gen Hugo Banzer was the president. One of those arrested in Canada, named Canedo, worked as Banzer's private secretary; the other was Edwin Tapia Frontanilla, as of that moment nicknamed "cocainilla."

The arrest of both drug traffickers provided a new ingredient to the suspicions harbored by the Canadian police: that the Bolivian consul general in Montreal, "Chito" Valle Urena, Banzer's son-in-law, was mixed up in the "connection." His strong defense of Canedo and Tapia Frontanilla automatically changed the suspicion to almost a proof. Since he could not be arrested because of his official position, the police simply linked his name to the others and let La Paz know about it. His family thus affected (another member, nephew Guillermo "Willy" Banzer Abastoflor, was to be arrested for drug trafficking in the United States), the dictator asked Carlos Aguirre, official of the Bank of America, to "investigate" the charges. Aguirre went to Canada and on his return reported that "Chito" Valle Urena was innocent of "guilt and charges." At any rate, he was quietly removed as consul and transferred to another place. It was only then that Banzer invited the Bolivian Journalists Association so that it could make its own investigation.

The trade union organization declined such an honor, suggesting that it had doubts about the "proofs" provided by Aguirre. The latter was recompensed with a trial position in the Supreme Court of Justice, which as a general rule is attained only after a distinguished career as a lawyer of advanced age or as a legal expert. When Banzer fell, Aguirre was removed from the Supreme Court and returned to his work in the Bank of America.

#### Concentric Circles

The fact is that at this time the Bank of America is the visible head of the banking-financial group from which the regime of Luis Garcia Meza is negotiating a postponement of the nearly \$160 million interest payment on Bolivia's debt. That group of creditors includes Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Libra Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia, both of the latter of Canada.

The Bank of America is not only assigned the work of piloting the operation of postponement but also the "restructuring" of the foreign debt, which is estimated at some \$3.6 billion dollars and which this year alone amounted to \$626 million. By pure coincidence it turns out that the son-in-law of Carlos Aguirre, Jorge Surco, has been appointed Bolivian charge d'affaires in the United States. Surco has been given the task of the profuse distribution in the news media of Washington, New York and

other cities, of a document titled "The Government of Bolivia is Facing an Insidious Campaign," whose text is aimed at distorting the charges made against several of the military men now holding key posts in the government and who are implicated in, and closely connected to, the traffic in cocaine.

Finances, drug traffic, ultraright militarism, professional anti-communism and smuggling roll and unroll in concentric circles, forming a tight mesh, never as thick as it is now. As THE NEW YORK TIMES said: For the first time in the world the drug traffic Maffia has taken over a government.

Colonels Arce and Salomon

The most conspicuous figure in drug traffic and smuggling continues to be Minister of Interior Col Luis Arce Gomez, who was also the mastermind behind the thwarted military coup of November 1979 and that of last 17 July. It was he who publicly threatened the United States with "flooding it with cocaine" if it halted its economic aid.

Arce, together with retired Col Noberto "Bubi" Salomon, are owners of an airtaxi company and a flying school named "Oasis of the Air." In Banzer's time, Salomon was commander of the Air Fighter Group and later minister of urban affairs. In February 1980 an aircraft of his company crashed shortly after takeoff. When the authorities investigated, they discovered that the wrecked aircraft contained 310 kilos of cocaine paste. It was only on the next day after the crash, when the news about the drug was already public. Salomon appeared charging that the wrecked airplane had been stolen, a story which of course no one believed.

This incident caused him to be appointed military attache of the embassy in Venezuela. On 2 June, another airplane of Oasis of the Air, rashly leased by the UDP [People's Democratic Union] and on which presidential candidate Hernan Siles Zuazo was to travel, crashed shortly after takeoff and the crew and passengers were killed with the exception of Jaime Paz Zamora, candidate for vice president of the UDP. Obviously there was sabotage, although Salomon and Arce initiated a claim against the insurance company for "the accident."

Offer of \$70 million For "Initial Costs"

In its 15 August edition the LATIN AMERICA WEEKLY REPORT (London, WR-80-32, "Bolivia: Garcia Meza Seeks a Mainline Solution," p 10) provides this news:

"Some of the closest supporters and advisers of the new Bolivian government appear to be thinking seriously of legalizing the growing of coca, as a source of income to replace the most traditional foreign aid programs, if they are canceled. Foreign correspondents were consulted on the subject two weeks ago in La Paz. Last week, Minister of Interior Col Luis Arce, who it is supposed has more than a passing interest on the subject, said to the correspondent of the Spanish news agency EFE that if the United States halts its aid, including the program for controlling drug traffic, it will have to bear the consequences." The correspondence reproduced the arguments for the legalization of cocaine in terms superior to those used normally for the legalization of cannabis.

"The mental stability of Colonel Arce has also been placed in doubt in U.S. diplomatic circles. But no one has seriously questioned the support of the all-powerful drug Maffia to the Garcia Meza coup. A NEW YORK TIMES correspondent said to LATIN AMERICA WEEKLY REPORT that he has evidence that a group of the drug traffic Maffia of Santa Cruz went to La Paz the first week after the coup to offer the new government more than \$70 million as an immediate financial support to cover the payment of the amortization of the debt due immediately. The implication of those interests in the new regime undoubtedly has strengthened opposition to it by foreign governments.

"Other observers have described the supporters of the present regime as "political lumpen," and undoubtedly the lack of support of any significant political force is noticeable. With Garcia Meza are working members of the FSB, which was virtually ignored as a political force in the last elections (where it obtained fewer than 20,000 votes). His government also includes members of the dissident faction of the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] headed by Guillermo Bedregal, who was also involved in the Natusch coup last November."

There is an overabundance of reports on the "Bolivian narcotics connection" in Washington. It was for some reason that officials of the DEA responsible for drug traffic control worked in Bolivia from some years back up to now. There is an overflow of information on that connection in INTERPOL and about the second international business in importance in that country: smuggling. The federal police of Argentina, Peru and Brazil also have extensive dossiers on the subject, although they remain silent for explicable reasons of the political times. However, it will be enough for the United States and Interpol to publish what they know for the entire Garcia Meza and Arce Gomez team to be vomited from power by the clean elements of the Bolivian Army, which although in the minority, do exist.

Brazilian Magazine Comments

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Aug 80 p 12

[Article by Gregorio Selser: "The Brazilian Magazine VEJA Also Links the Coup With Drug Traffic"]

[Text] In its edition of last 30 July, the Brazilian weekly VEJA of Sao Paulo published a story on pages 33-34 titled "A Subsidiary of the Coup," in which it referred to a tragic-comic story.

A few days after the Coup of the Cocadollars--17 July--a group of Bolivians, who supported the putsch by Luis Garcia Meza and Luis Arce Gomez, invaded Brazilian territory on the border with Bolivia, occupying the consulate of that country in Corumba, state of Mato Grosso do Sul and expelling its chief, Julio Davila Valdivia. This at least was the report that reached Capt Sergio Lara, chief of Military Police in Corumba, who decided to intervene at the head of 30 soldiers, since the Brazilian government had not recognized the rebellious regime and for that reason maintained relations with the government of Lidia Gueiler.

As was reported in his story by correspondent Luis Claudio Cunha, what actually happened was that the consul was repeatedly threatened by customs agent Tito Salinas, office boy Herman Saucedo, assistant Carlos Gimenez and customs guard Guido Pinto--the latter "arrested by the Brazilian police 3 years before for trafficking in cocaine"--and they occupied the consulate and did not allow its chief to enter. The story adds other interesting facts:

The Cocaine That Passes Through Corumba

The recognition by Brazil of the drug-junta had already been decided but "public revelation should wait until after the visit to Brazil by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo" and after that official was out of the country. In the OAS, Mexico was among the countries which censured the coup and Brazil among those who defended it. Official recognition while President Lopez Portillo was in the country would have been an undiplomatic move.

The rebellious attitude of Salinas was due to the fact that he owed the consul some 150,000 cruzeiros, which Valdivia was asking for, and to the fact that he "was disgusted with the work discipline and demands imposed by Valdivia from the time he was appointed consul." But the most interesting part of the story in VEJA was the final paragraph: "In Corumba, despite its modest size--two rooms for which it pays a monthly rent of 7,000 cruzeiros--the Bolivian consulate handles 80 percent of Brazilian trade going to Bolivia. Nearly 10,000 of the 70,000 inhabitants of the city are Bolivian and at least a third of them live

there illegally. The border bureaucracy, according to estimates of Brazilian officials, yields more than 50 million cruzeiros daily. But the vital center of interest in that area circulates outside the legal transactions: it is the business in cocaine. The Brazilian Federal Police estimate that 1.5 tons of cocaine pass through there annually and that seizures do not even exceed 10 percent of that ton and a half."

#### VEJA Figures

The same conservative weekly, VEJA, once more dealt with the subject of drugs in an editorial published 13 August (page 36) with the following titles and subtitles: "Bolivia, A Strong Smell of Powder." "Cocaine Traffickers Were Behind the Coup By General Garcia Meza."

The text of the entire page says the following: "The stories telling of the coup-drug connection in La Paz have increased to such a point that today in Bolivia there are those who call the "Putsch" by Garcia Meza a "cocaine coup." According to many, not only are the majority of the military involved in narcotics traffic but the coup itself was brought about to protect the interests of the powerful network of cocaine traffickers in Bolivia. In other words, the coup was carried out less to prevent the Bolivian left from seizing power--as Garcia Meza bawled out on the day of his inauguration, in the standard pretext of "international communism"--than to prevent Siles Suazo, once in power, from upsetting the applecart of the profitable operation of the traffickers, who in recent years have made of Bolivia one of the largest cocaine factories in the world.

#### The Role of Bolivia

"The illegal trade in cocaine yields no less than \$500 million per year to a few Bolivians; more than tin, the main export product of the country and of which Bolivia is the second-ranking producer in the world. Operations are based primarily in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, headquarters of the military and civilian groups which supported the Garcia Meza coup. The largest part of the information on this business is found recorded in the Department of State in Washington, where in recent years a significant study on the role of Bolivia in the international cocaine connection has been made. It is a role which has only grown. The Department of State discovered, for example, that the Bolivian connection became the main supplier for American addicts: from 40 to 60 percent of the nearly 30 tons of the drug which entered the United States last year came from Bolivia.

Moreover, since the July coup, American officials have been noting that a larger and larger number of Bolivians involved in cocaine traffic are today in important positions in the new government. The most mentioned name on that list is that of Col Luis Arce Gomez, minister

of interior of the new government and former chief of the powerful Army Intelligence Service up to the time of the July military coup. Arce, during the time he headed that service, made efforts to torpedo the government antidrug machinery. Moreover, he had in recent years changed from a simple stooge of the traffickers to a chief of one of the many gangs of traffickers in action in the country himself. Arce, of course, is particularly sensitive when there is talk of cocaine. Last week he ordered the jailing of American correspondent Mary Helen Spooner of the FINANCIAL TIMES. The reason: She had written an article about the involvement of Arce in the traffic.

#### In Customs

The second person placed on the list of those involved is the new minister of education--ironically an air force colonel named Ariel Coca--involved in a shipment of 100 kilos of cocaine seized last year in Panama. And there are still other cases such as that of Col Otto Lopez, army commander in the Tarija Region, who is considered the main saboteur of previous government efforts to contain drug traffic in the area.

"That is not all. There are also indications that known smugglers and traffickers are participating in operations of kidnaping political figures of the left or even members of the interim government of Lidia Gueiler deposed by Garcia Meza. There is another case, that of Fernando Monroy ("El Mosca"), known gangster of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Monroy was seen in action in the attack on Palacio Quemado, the home of the Bolivian presidency, when paramilitary commandos arrested President Gueiler and a handful of ministers.

"Another revealing sign of the coup-cocaine connection detected in Washington was the extreme rapidity with which traffickers or their stooges went to occupy key positions in those government sectors precisely responsible for controlling drug traffic. Jose Abraham Baptista, for example, a Santa Cruz trafficker, is considered one of the main financial backers of the Garcia Meza coup. He obtained what is probably the first prize in this race for decisive posts. No less than two of his relatives were appointed to positions of authority in Bolivian customs."

#### Smuggling Also

The VEJA story we have repeated has no political motives. In Brazil, as in the United States, drugs are a national scourge. On 28 June in JORNAL DO BRASIL (page 11) Professor Arthur Pereira de Castilho Neto, attorney general for the republic and member of the National Health Council Technical Chamber on Narcotics and Drugs, published a pondered analysis with the title of "Drugs, a National Epidemic," in which he revealed that the habit has now been detected as beginning in children

nine years of age, indiscriminately addicted to marihuana, cocaine and tranquilizers, and he demanded "a global action to fight the epidemic in which the government, private entities and the social community should participate."

An integral part of this scourge is smuggling. The drug trafficker is indissolubly linked to smuggling, he is one of its branches. The Brazilians know perfectly well that no fewer than a dozen airplanes leave their territory for Santa Cruz de la Sierra every week, carrying substantial shipments of ether and acetone, two products needed for changing the coca leaves into cocaine paste, in addition to electrical appliances and food or manufactured goods, whose price is much lower than it is in Bolivia. The colonel with the predestined last name, Ariel Coca, was chief of the Department of Control of Narcotics and Dangerous Substances during the time of Banzer. He was also commandant of the German Busch Aviation School in Santa Cruz. As such he had the perfect front for the smuggling of whiskey, electrical appliances, food, and above all, light weapons from Paraguay, the latter were particularly used to pay off the bands of narcotics traffickers and the gunmen of the FSB for their work of support to the illegal traffic and even more for their work labeled as "paramilitary" which Luis Arce Gomez unleashed from November 1979 on. That he was appointed minister of education appears to be a joke, although the joke that is going the rounds is that they appointed him because they once saw him with a book in his hand and he even wears glasses, which gives him the appearance of an intellectual.

Another prominent case is that of Rudy Landivar, who Garcia Meza has just promoted to major, although he never went to any military school. Immediately after the coup an attempt was made to reward him for his services in Santa Cruz by appointing him director of customs in the department. He feigned refusal, choosing instead to be chief of the organization responsible for reviving the so-called Military-Peasant Pact. Landivar continues to be one of the mainsprings of the traffic in narcotics.

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BOLIVIA

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 'ALL-OUT WAR' AGAINST DRUGS

PY231757 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Sep 80 p 5

[Text] The all-out war against drug traffickers has now been extended to drug consumers and to the coca trade.

The dangerous drugs department has reported that drug traffickers who attacked narcotics department personnel in the town of Koana in Los Angeles on the border with Peru were arrested on Saturday, 6 September, during a raid.

As a result of this raid the authorities confiscated 1,790 grams of cocaine chloralhydrate. The authorities detained Juan Gomez Chambilla, who was in possession of 900 grams of cocaine chloralhydrate; Dionisio Charana Huanapa, who had in his possession 390 grams of cocaine chloralhydrate; Remigio Alabe Vonifacio, who was in possession of 500 grams of cocaine chloralhydrate; and Sergio Charana Apaza and Gregorio Gomex Chambilla.

These men will be severely punished on charges of having resisted the authorities and for their activities in drug trafficking.

Dangerous drug department officials have stated that they will not tolerate actions of this nature which endanger the lives of police personnel.

They added that there is an all-out war against drug trafficking and that raids are being carried out throughout the country to combat drug traffic and consumption. They also noted that they are controlling coca production and trade.

During a raid these authorities carried out in the Tajibos region in Santa Cruz, they discovered a cocaine factory hidden in two trenches.

During this raid, the authorities confiscated 10 grams of cocaine chloralhydrate and all the tools used to produce the drug. The police also burned all the drugs found in the place on orders given by department authorities.

Drug department officials also found an abandoned cocaine factory a few kilometers from the town of Warnes.

The police have identified the owner of the factory but they are still trying to capture the other members of the gang.

CSO: 5300



BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED, DRUGS SEIZED--The National Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances seized 500 grams of cocaine and arrested Peruvian citizens Remigio Alave and Igacio Colque during an operation carried out in a town of the high plateau. It was also disclosed that the directorate burned 5,660 grams of cocaine seized during five other operations. Italian citizens Giuseppe Bellinese, Sonia Amelotti and Flaminio Giarrizzo and the French citizens Socquet Juglare and Legrain Patrick Alphonse were expelled from the country on charges of drug trafficking and consumption. The directorate has also placed the following persons, found guilty in drug trafficking in Cochabamba, at the disposal of the public ministry: Victor Heredia Guevara, Cornelio Sanchez Morales, Carlos Sandoval Paredes, Rosa Carrillo, Rita Camacho de Torrez and Julio Torrez Orellana. [La Paz PY241215 PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Sep 80 PY]

COCAINE FACTORY DISCOVERED--The narcotics department discovered a cocaine factory in the city of Mineros, near the city of Montero; it belonged to Rolando Diaz. The factory was accidentally discovered as a consequence of a fire which broke out nearby. Aquino Rosales was in charge of supplying the factory with coca leaves. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Sep 80 PY]

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES

Elchemer Arrested at Airport

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] Businessman Eduardo Jose Elchemer, director-president of the Sao Paulo Manufacturing and Trading Chamber, a company licensed to make sales of war materiel to the Middle East and Europe, was arrested by Federal Police when he tried to remove five kilos of cocaine from a locker at the Congonhas Airport. Elchemer bought the cocaine for 2 million cruzeiros, and, as he confessed, he intended to resell it in Europe for 25 million. For three days the police staked out the airport, alerted by an anonymous telephone call describing the person who would withdraw the cocaine.

Elchemer Describes Operation

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Aug 80 p 6

[Text] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO)--Businessman Eduardo Jose Elchemer was arrested the day before yesterday afternoon by agents of the Federal Police when he tried to remove a shipment of five kilos of cocaine from a locker at the Congonhas Airport. He bought the cocaine for 2 million cruzeiros, he confessed, and was to be resold subsequently in Europe for 25 million cruzeiros. He is the director-chairman of the Manufacturing and Trading Chamber of Sao Paulo, a private company licensed to sell war materiel to the Middle East and some European countries.

Elchemer is also the owner of several real estate properties, including in Cabo Frio, where he owns a development with nearly 4,000 lots.

Recently he has devoted himself to arranging deals for soccer players to be sent to other countries. His arrest shook social and business circles in Sao Paulo, and caused a reserve general to go to the Federal Police station on Piaui Street to intercede for his release. Elchemer is being held incommunicado and the Federal Police believe that they could make new arrests shortly.



Eduardo Jose Elchemer is  
being held incommunicado  
by Federal Police

A telephoned tip with the description of the person who would go to make the cocaine shipment deal--a man with grey hair, medium height and stocky--kept the police on stakeout at the airport for 3 days until the moment when the businessman appeared with the key to the locker and withdrew a black bag in which were three packages of the drug. The businessman was recently in the news when he was the intermediary in the sale of player Romeu of the Corinthians to a U.S. club, transaction which in the end was not accomplished despite the trip to Brazil by a U.S. representative.

"Good Deal"

Elchemer declared to the Federal Police that "this was the first time" that he had dealt in drugs and that he bought the cocaine from a man who called himself Eduardo whom he met in the United States.

"The man--with an Italian accent--told me that he had a 'good deal' for me, but only told me what it was about at a dinner in a New York restaurant," Elchemer told police.

He added that at first he did not believe what the man said but wound up asking that he bring him two kilos of cocaine. After that, already in Sao Paulo, the man who proposed the sale to him made several calls to him at his office until they reached an agreement. Five kilos would be purchased for two million cruzeiros.

"The seller wanted the money in advance," said Elchemer, "but at the time I did not have it. It was then that I tried to pawn a ring belonging to my wife at the Savings Bank, where I was informed that the ceiling on jewel loans never exceeded 270,000 cruzeiros.

The businessman said that he then turned to a businessman acquaintance who lent him the money. He made it a point to say that his friend knew nothing about what he intended to do.

With the money, the businessman drove his Cougar automobile to the parking lot of the Congonhas Airport, from where he went to the international section where the seller was waiting for him. He gave the money to the man, received the key to the locker where the cocaine was deposited and he went toward it while his contact disappeared.

According to the police, he reached the locker several times and turned away as if he wanted to leave, but finally he opened it, withdrew the bag and left quickly. Unlike the way in which he arrived, he tried to hail a taxi. At that moment the police approached and arrested him.

#### Europe

Elchemer said that it was his intention to sell the drug in Europe, although the police believe that if he really intended to take the drug to another country he would not have removed it from the locker prior to preparing himself for the trip. Elchemer's relatives meanwhile confirm that he had a trip scheduled to Europe related to business of the company he heads. According to the Federal Police, the cocaine purchased by the businessman, which according to him was purchased for two million cruzeiros, could be sold in Europe for more than 25 million. A brother of Elchemer, saying he was "astonished at the story," declared that "he does not need that because just the land he owns provides him with income greater than that amount." As for the general who tried to intercede with the police, and whose name he asked be kept secret, declared that he has been Elchemer's friend for 30 years and that "If I had known of anything that discredited him I would have broken off that friendship a long time ago. I would be the first to denounce him," declared the general, at the same time saying that he still does not believe that Elchemer had been involved in drug traffic. "As far as I am concerned that was a setup."

Police Suspect International Links

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Aug 80 p 4

[Text] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO)--Federal Police suspect that businessman Eduardo Jose Elchemer, arrested last Mnday with a shipment of cocaine, is linked to international drug traffic. The owner of a company which has the concession for the sale of war materiel abroad and the owner of several real estate developments, Elchemer has a criminal record with three arrests among which are one for fraud and one for bookmaking.

The police also believe that he did not tell "all he knew" in his statement and that the five kilos of cocaine which he said he bought for two million cruzeiros from a man he met in the United States "already had a specific delivery point," although the businessman declares that it was his first transaction. Police estimates are that the shipment would have brought nearly 25 million cruzeiros abroad. The businessman was arrested when he withdrew the cocaine from a locker at the Congonhas Airport where the police were on stakeout after an anonymous tip.

Threats

Elchemer's wife and two daughters yesterday left the luxurious apartment where the family lived in the Higienopolis district, going to live with relatives. The reason, according to Alfredo Elchemer, a brother of the businessman, was a threat made by a masculine voice on the telephone that the wife and the daughters would be killed if the husband revealed details on cocaine traffic.

The police are investigating the threat, thinking that the arrest of the person making it could lead to the dismantling of a large international gang of cocaine traffickers. The five kilos seized from Elchemer have the same degree of purity as the shipments also seized in Sao Paulo from U.S. citizens Joseph Griffs and Donald Gary, which amounted to seven kilos. According to the police statement, it was the same informant who "provided the service" on the American traffickers, as well as on the shipment which was in the airport locker.

Developments

Elchemer is the president of the Sao Paulo Industrial, Trade and Administrative Chamber and the owner of several real estate undertakings in Cabo Frio: the Rio Mar and Barao resorts of Itarare in Iguape and the Pago-Pago development in Ilha Comprida. He maintains five offices in Sao Paulo and another in Rio de Janeiro.

Possible Bolivian Link Cited

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Aug 80 p 15-A

[Article by Flavio Tavares: " 'Honest' Brazilian Businessman Arrested With Five Kilograms of Cocaine"]

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 27 August--A Brazilian arms merchant, Eduardo Jose Elchemer arrested "red-handed" at the Sao Paulo airport with five kilos of cocaine from Bolivia claimed he is "a personal friend" of General Garcia Meza in an attempt to obtain his release from the police.

Elchemer was arrested last night as he was leaving the airport passenger terminal carrying the drug (valued at more than 13 million Mexican pesos) in a traveling bag which had been placed in a luggage locker two hours before by a passenger who arrived from Corumba, a Brazilian city on the border with Bolivia.

The arrest of Elchemer caused a commotion in high commercial and business sectors of Sao Paulo, where up to now he was considered a citizen above suspicion of involvement in international cocaine traffic. Owner and president of a European weapons sales company, the "Trade, Industrial and Administrative Chamber of Sao Paulo Limited," he became a close friend in recent years of the military chiefs of Bolivia and Paraguay, through whose mediation he carried out many sales deals for sporting and military weapons. His arrest, it appears, clears up a great deal of the mystery which led Bolivian generals to overthrow President Lidia Gueiler last July.

Shipment of "Sporting Rifles"

In March, Elchemer made the sale of 350 22-caliber "sporting rifles" to Bolivian business groups of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The first shipment of weapons (actually British Thompson submachine guns used in World War II), arrived in the port of Santos in Brazil on the way to Santa Cruz de la Sierra addressed to a Bolivian business firm.

In these cases Brazilian customs makes no type of inspection of the merchandise, which nevertheless should be made by Bolivian border authorities.

Ten days ago, with General Garcia Meza already in power, the second part of the shipment arrived from an unidentified European port. In the city of Bauru, in the interior of Sao Paulo, a watchman at a railroad station told the press that the shipment waited several hours before being transferred to other cars with the destination of Corumba, from where they would be taken to Santa Cruz de la Sierra. In the 10 crates, the shipment declared appeared as "22-caliber pistols and shotguns," weapons used for hunting.

The intermediaries in the sale were Eduardo Jose Elchemer and his company in Sao Paulo.

Twelve days ago, Elchemer went to Santa Cruz de la Sierra under the pretext of undertaking new business deals with Bolivian fishing and hunting equipment companies. It is believed that he was paid part of the value of the sales, not in cash or drafts, but in cocaine.

At police headquarters in Sao Paulo, Elchemer denies that his sales of weapons to Bolivia had any connection with cocaine traffic. However, events appear to confirm that he was: The same arms merchant confirms that in his trip to Santa Cruz de la Sierra 10 days ago he bought five kilos of cocaine, paying nearly three million cruzeiros (around 1.4 million Mexican pesos). He also paid the equivalent of 900,000 Mexican pesos to "a courier" to carry the drug to Sao Paulo.

#### Other Traffickers Let to Arrest

The Brazilian Federal Police reported that the cocaine was purchased at a Santa Cruz de la Sierra distillery, the same one where U.S. traffickers Joseph Griffs and Donald Gary obtained seven kilos last week before being arrested in Brazil a short time ago. Apparently the two U.S. traffickers gave the Brazilian police the clues so that they could find the five kilos which arrived at the Sao Paulo airport yesterday.

Undoubtedly what the Brazilian police could not have suspected was that the shipment would be addressed to an arms merchant with the reputation of being an upright and worthy man with a broad circle of friends among government and business circles in Sao Paulo, and who did not even deny relationships he has with heads of governments.

One of these friendships mentioned by Elchemer is no less than that of the Bolivian dictator himself: "I am a personal friend of General Garcia Meza and he is going to help me and could help you also," Elchemer said to Brazilian Federal Police agent, who arrested him as he left the airport. The agent did not believe him, thinking that the friendship invoked was a lie or a trick by the trafficker and he took him to the Narcotics Bureau where he remains a prisoner.

The Bolivian embassy in Brasilia, questioned via telephone by this correspondent and by several Brazilian newspapers, refused to comment on the arrest of "the personal friend" of General Garcia Meza.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

INDIANS GROWING COCA IN AMAZON REGION; DRUG ARREST

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 3 Sep 80 p

[Text] Brazilian police dealt two more blows in recent days to a cocaine production and distribution network in national territory. In both cases it ran into good luck and happenstance. In Sao Paulo, an anonymous telephone call alerted the Federal Police about a shipment of cocaine which would be sold at the airport of Congonhas. The police went there on Monday 25 August and arrested businessman Eduardo Jose Elchemer with five kilos of cocaine. In Manaus, the Federal Police learned that the Maki and Wapixuna Indians located in the region of Alto Rio Negro near the border with Colombia were abandoning their subsistence crops and planting more and more "Ipadu." The agents went there to check and lo and behold, "Ipadu" was the native name for "erythroxylum coca lamk" a variety of the coca plant.

With those two additional actions, the Federal Police end the month of August with a series of at least six important operations against drug traffic: Costa Rican Raul Leon Viales was arrested in Belem as he was leaving for the United States with four kilos of cocaine; in Sao Paulo, on the Castello Branco Highway, two U.S. citizens, who had been followed from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, through the interior of Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo, were arrested with seven kilos of the drug. In Rio, one of the largest Carioca drug traffickers, Renato de Souza Santos, "Tonelada," was arrested. Finally, a large operation was carried out in Manaus: four cocaine powder producing laboratories were discovered and two gangs, which exported the drug to the United States and Europe, were broken up.

The Indians

From all the operations, the police discovered new traffic routes and accumulated information that will certainly lead to new arrests. However, the discovery of fields of coca grown by the Amazon Region tribes was a real surprise. Around the middle of August federal agents were in the Alto Rio Negro region, 2,000 kilometers from Manaus, following clues obtained during investigations on the "Amazonian Connection" of the



traffic. In talks with Indians and natives, they confirmed that "ipadu" is a common plant in the area, even growing in its natural state along rivers, lakes and channels. Moreover, they confirmed that the Indians there normally use some preparations of the plant in ceremonies and holidays. Finally, they confirmed that the Maki and Wapixuna Indians had been increasing plantings of "ipadu" and that they usually crossed the border to sell loads of leaves in Colombia.

The story seemed obvious. It was only a matter of collecting samples of the leaves and sending them to Brazilian and U.S. laboratories and wait for a reply. It soon came: The plant was coca, the same variety found in the Bolivian Andean regions, the largest producers of the drug.

#### Surprises

Federal Police agents are convinced that the Indians were induced to plant coca by Colombian traffickers. Some Indians even said they were taken to the other side of the border to learn the techniques of turning the leaves into paste--this is a material of lesser volume and more easily transported. The region of the fields is of difficult access and for that reason the size of the area planted cannot be evaluated. The Manaus police, however, believe that there is still much to be discovered in this story.

In Sao Paulo, businessman Elchemer, arrested at the Congonhas Airport, has been trying to disavow connections with any drug traffic network. He pictured himself as a business man who by accident ran into a good offer to purchase a shipment of cocaine. The offer was allegedly made in New York and finally consummated by means of a number of telephone calls. Last Monday afternoon Elchemer went to the international section of the Congonhas Airport, met a man whose name he does not know, gave him 1.8 million cruzeiros and received the key to a baggage locker. There, he removed a sack containing three packages of cocaine powder, five kilos. He was arrested when he sought to take a taxi. For three days, alerted by a telephone call, the agents staked out the area.

The story is intriguing. Elechemer is apparently a successful businessman: a merchant, real estate agent and arms factory representative in Brazil. He said this was the first time he dealt in drugs and that he intended to sell the coca in Europe for some 25 million cruzeiros. This, also, was what surprised his relatives: they said that Elchemer has land, including in Cabo Frio, worth many times 25 million cruzeiros. The police believe the story is more complicated.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

CLANDESTINE LANDING FIELDS--At least 150 clandestine landing fields built by smugglers and drug traffickers are in operation in the region of Presidente Prudente and Aracatuba, it was revealed yesterday by Federal Police Commissioner Dacio Marques, who declared that plans for the location and arrest of those responsible is already underway. Beginning next week, the agency's regional organization will begin its activities in Presidente Prudente. Last Thursday Marques Cruz participated in a meeting in Tabarai with several prefects of the region at which time he reported he will concentrate his activities on fighting the use of drugs, smuggling and the traffic in women. As far as he is concerned, the region is not critical but "only a point of passage on the way to, or return from Paraguay." To attend to the more than 80 municipalities, the new Federal Police district office will also have a deputy commissioner, two clerks and 20 agents acting in the 9th and 10th regions [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Aug 80 p 17] 8908

CSO: 3001

COLOMBIA

COCAINE LAB, SIX TRAFFICKERS SEIZED IN TOLIMA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Aug 80 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Text] In another spectacular blow -- greater than previous ones in Colombia and in the entire world -- agents of the Narcotics Groups of F-2 of the General Staff seized 700 kilograms of 100 percent pure cocaine, whose value on the United States black market is estimated at over 400 billion pesos.

Six important ring leaders in the narcotics traffic fell in the hands of the detectives and the investigation spread to various cities in the country.

The secret agency officers had been conducting a patient, careful investigation for a month, in order to catch the ring leaders. This occurred yesterday on a farm located in the rural area of the municipality of Natividad, in Tolima Department.

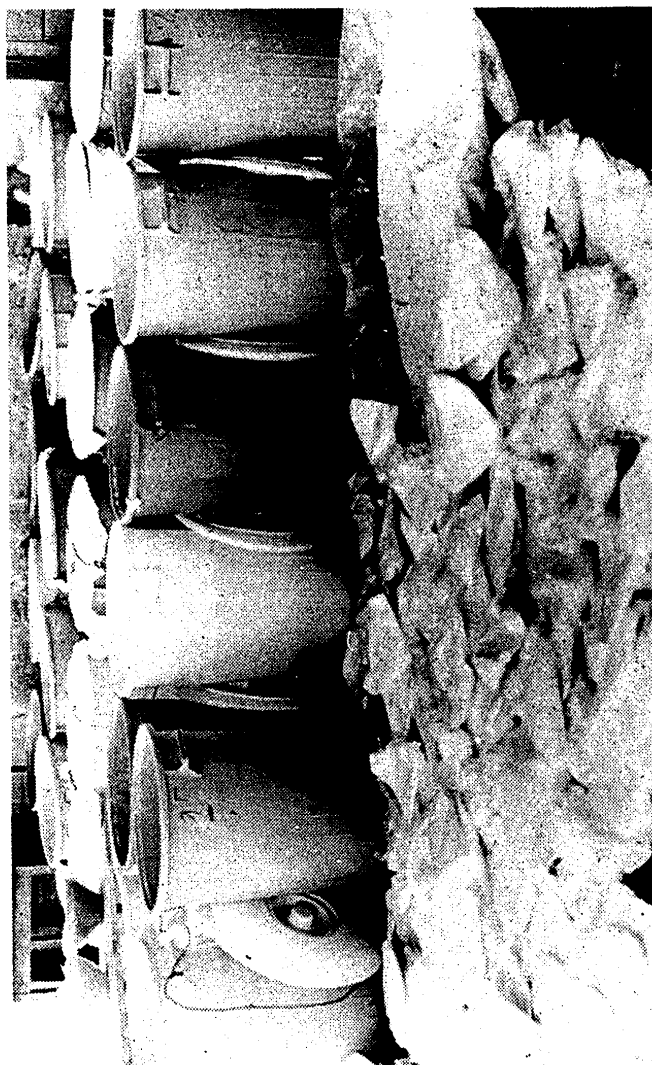
The individuals were engaged in the process of drying the alkaloid at the time when the detectives arrived at the farm on La Molana Trail, in the above-mentioned municipality. The surprise was so great that they offered no resistance.

The blow delivered by the operatives of the secret agency is greater than the one delivered in September 1979 in Bogota, when 800 kilograms of the drug were seized in process of preparation and lower in purity.

Among the items seized from the narcotics traffickers are a number of 55-gallon cans in which there was alkaloid in process of precipitation.

The gang members were drying the cocaine crystals in the sun, taking advantage of the region's hot climate and thus the use of sophisticated ovens and lamps was avoided.

The F-2 said that, originally, nine persons were arrested, but three of them were released, because they were farmers.



The photograph shows part of the items seized from the six narcotics traffickers who had the largest cocaine factory in the world in Tolima. A large part of the 700 kilograms of the alkaloid seized by the F-2 of the General Staff was in these cans.



Antonio José  
Restrepo R.



Oscar de Jesús  
Ortiz Valencia



Rosemberg  
Arias M.



Héctor de J.  
García G.



Francisco  
Jiménez Castro



Oscar  
Benítez Ortiz

Aside from avoiding the use of ovens and lamps for drying, the narcotics traffickers did not arouse suspicions because of the low consumption of electricity, used only for lighting.

#### The Investigation

According to the F-2 report, the narcotics group agents had been engaged for over a month in following various persons suspected of being connected with international rings of narcotics traffickers.

The individuals were quite careful and the task became rather difficult. In view of this, it was decided to conduct intelligence work by means of infiltrating about 12 units of the agency in the town of Natagaima itself.

Officers, noncommissioned officers and agents of the secret corps devoted themselves for several weeks to "making friends" among the town's residents and thus they succeeded in locating the farm where the alkaloid was processed.

Once all tracks are certain, the chief of F-2, Col Yacim Yanine Diaz, authorized the blow to be struck against the narcotics traffickers. This event took place last Wednesday morning.

When the detectives arrived, the members of the ring were engaged in the process of drying and packaging the alkaloid to shipment to the black market in the United States.

#### Arrests

The following were arrested on the small farm: Oscar de Jesus Ortiz Valencia, owner of the house; Antonio Jose Restrepo Ramirez, Hector de Jesus Garcia Gonzalez, Rosemberg Arias Montes, Oscar Benitez and Francisco Jimenez Castro.

The names of the three farmers released were not furnished, because it was ascertained that they had nothing to do with drug traffic.

In addition, the F-2 agents seized the following items: 9 55-gallon plastic cans, 15 plastic buckets with various chemical substances, 15 large glass carboys containing sulfuric ether, three 500-cubic centimeter glass flasks, 5 precision balances, 9 plastic funnels, 3 plastic cups, 11 plastic urns, 4,200 polyethylene bags, 12 packs of filter paper and 12 cans containing sulfuric acid.

The members of the ring also had in their possession a Renault-12 light truck, with license plate FC 1930 and with a powerful radio transmitter and receiver.

#### Helicopter

This fact made the agents think that the ring had a clandestine airport for transporting the alkaloid to the United States. Therefore, an extensive search was made with negative results.

The F-2 agents believe that the narcotics traffickers used a helicopter to transport the drug more conveniently.

The farm belonging to Oscar de Jesus Ortiz Velencia is located at about 9 kilometers from the town limits of the Natagaima municipality and in a place that made it almost unnoticeable.

The secret agents seized four model 357 revolvers, the most modern of this type.

Once the alkaloid was processed, it was packaged in polyethylene bags that were put in plastic sacks filled with grass seed to camouflage the shipment.

#### Operations

The headquarters of F-2 of the General Staff was pleased by the blow delivered to the narcotics traffickers and stated that the investigation is continuing in search of the principal ring leaders. Thus operations are being pursued in Cali, Bogota, Medellin and Barranquilla.

Col Yacim Yanine Diaz, chief of F-2, said that the blow exceeds the one last year in Bogota, when 800 kilograms of cocaine were seized, mostly in paste. Its value was estimated at 256 billion pesos on the United States black market.

It should be noted that the secret agency operatives had to leave most of the items under strict vigilance on the same farm where they were found, owing to their large amount. Yesterday morning two police trucks were dispatched from Bogota to proceed to move them.

In addition, the chief of F-2 submitted a detailed report to the attorney general of the nation, at the same time as he requested him to appoint a special judge for the investigation.

Several of the cans in which the alkaloid was in process of precipitation -- to be subjected to drying subsequently -- were taken to Bogota on Wednesday night, together with the persons arrested.

The chief of F-2 also said that the agency operatives are searching in the same region for more farms on which there might be other laboratories, apparently owned by the same ring.

According to what the authorities reported, this blow is perhaps the largest in the history of narcotics trafficking and it is assumed that

the ring has connections with important ring leaders not only in the United States but also in other countries.

Three Times the Budget

The cocaine seized on the Yaco trail in Natagaima is equal to three times the amount of the budget of Tolima Department, that is to say over 3 billion pesos on the black market, the police commander, Col Jose Luis Vargas, said when he discussed the operation carried out yesterday by antinarcotics units from Bogota.

The officer stated that the shipment stored on the Guaguaquito Farm in Natagaima weighs approximately half a metric ton and is the largest one seized in the history of antinarcotics operations in Latin America.

Six persons have been deprived of freedom because of this shipment and Francisco Jimenez Castro is indicated as ring leader.

The agents participating in the operation also seized 18 cans of acid for processing the alkaloid, 20 plastic jars containing processed cocaine, 4 revolvers, 1 light truck and a Renault-12 automobile with free passage, in addition to 48 revolver cartridges.

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COLOMBIA

BOOK ON MARIHUANA TRADE IS RAPID SELLER

Bogota LECTURAS DOMINICALES de EL TIEMPO, in Spanish 17 Aug 80 p 9

[Review by German Santamaria of the book "La noche de las luciernagas" [The Night of the Fireflies] by Jose Cervantes Angulo, Plaza y Janes, Colombia, 1980, 327 pages]

[Text] The Plaza and Janes Publishing House published, with many doubts, the book "La noche de las luciernagas" by a newsman from Barranquilla, Jose Cervantes Angulo. But soon, 2 weeks after appearing in bookshop windows, the first edition was sold out. Three months later, over 20,000 copies have been sold and Virgilio Cuesta, manager of the publishing house believes that, according to orders from Venezuela, Miami and Panama, total sales of the book may amount to over 50,000 copies. Something rarely known in Colombia.

Well, the matter has an explanation. "La noche de las luciernagas" is the first journalistic testimony published in Colombia on the business of marihuana. Therefore, from the first day of its publication, people have been lining up in the cities on the coast to buy it. They say that traffickers are the ones buying it most. There also are those who state that those traffickers are buying between 20 and 30 copies of the book at one time, in order to try in that way to have the edition sell out and to take the book off the market.

The truth is that, because the book indicates by name the leading agents on the market, the people are rushing to buy it, in order to know who they are. And others buy it to check whether their name is there.

Nevertheless, this is perhaps the book's only merit. Cervantes himself admits that he is only a newsman and not a writer and, therefore, "La noche de las luciernagas" is a book without general structure, without overall consistency and deficient from the point of view of form. It is one thing to write a newspaper account and something else to put a book together. Nevertheless, in view of the sales and the expectations to which it is giving rise, it can be said that Cervantes has taken an important step for Colombian journalism in going from simple information to the production of courageous testimonial works.

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MEXICO

## BRIEFS

COCAINE, HEROIN TRAFFICKERS CAUGHT--Mexico City, 10 Sep--(NOTIMEX)--A valuable shipment of pure heroin and cocaine worth over 120 million pesos, which was intended to reach the United States through different routes, was intercepted here by federal agents. At the international airport in this city, police captured the American, William Haddo, who arrived from Colombia with nearly 1 kilogram of cocaine in plastic bags attached to his boots. On another flight, also arriving from California, Colombia, the police captured the sisters Olivia and Anar Guzman Rosales, of Colombian origin, who were carrying 120 grams of pure cocaine in two containers inserted in the vagina. In Tijuana, Baja California Norte, federal agents captured one of the leading drug dealers in the Mexican Republic, Jose Betancurt Garcia, with 3 kilograms and 150 grams of excellent quality heroin. The Guzman Rosales sisters, who reside in New York, were "enlisted" by drug traffickers at the Los Recuerdos Inn in California, who gave them the containers and powder for distribution upon their return to the United States. The Federal Police noted that the purity of the drugs would make it possible to "cut" or change them several times, without their losing the toxic effect. Thus, when 1 kilogram has novocaine, starch and sugar added to it, it is converted into 7 kilograms of cut drug, increasing its total price considerably. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 11 Sep 80 Sec C p 4] 2909

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--The unified eighth circuit court, located in Torreon, Coahuila, confirmed the 7-year prison sentence imposed on Gilberto Lopez Rivera by the federal judge in Piedras Negras when he was found guilty of committing a crime against health in the degree of marihuana possession, transportation and trafficking. The foregoing information was given to EL DIARIO, with the comment that Gilberto Lopez Rivera was tried in the same proceedings as Ruben Fonseca, an individual from whom 2 tons (2,000 kilograms) of marihuana that he had hidden on a farm near Nueva Rosita were seized. The action of the Federal Judicial Police proved efficient and reliable in this case, putting an end to a well organized ring of drug traffickers headed by Ruben Fonseca, who was identified as the one mainly responsible, with other trials for the same crime pending, involving different activities. The situation was reported to EL DIARIO yesterday. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 6 Sep 80 Sec B p 1] 2909

TWO DRUG SMUGGLERS SENTENCED--The second district judge issued prison sentences to the drug traffickers Manuel Reyna Riojas and Rafael Olivares Sanchez. They were given similar penalties of 7 years in jail and fines of 10,000 pesos. According to the judge's findings, they are guilty of committing a crime against health in the degree of marihuana possession and transportation. The records of trial 189-979, held against the two individuals, show that, on 15 October of last year, Federal Judicial Police agents first arrested Manuel Reyna. He was captured while at the bus terminal to pick up several boxes containing marihuana, which his associate, Rafael Olivares Sanchez, had sent intentionally from Tepic. When questioned, he confessed that he had been in business for some time with Olivares Sanchez, purchasing marihuana to be exported to the United States. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Sep 80 Sec B p 6] 2909

CSO: 5330

EGYPT

TON OF NARCOTICS HIDDEN IN ALEXANDRIA WATERS SEIZED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Aug 80 p 10

[Text] In a concerted action, the Headquarters for Combating Drug Smuggling and the Border Guards Intelligence Bureau foiled an attempt to smuggle one ton of drugs estimated at a value of 1 million pounds.

The drugs were brought by a gang of Lebanese and Egyptian smugglers for the market during the holidays. The drugs were hidden in the sea inside rubber tyres, but the authorities succeeded in getting hold of them. This followed efforts during which the men involved in the operation were exposed to possible drowning on account of high winds and a stormy sea.

The first piece of information which the Headquarters for Combating Drug smuggling received was at the beginning of June. The information intimated that a gang of Lebanese and Egyptian smugglers had planned to send out a large shipment of drugs from Lebanon to Egypt by sea in anticipation of the 'Id al-Fitr holiday. The information made it clear that the gang was headed by the Lebanese smuggler Fu'ad al-Ajrudy.

In light of this information, Mr Nabawi Isma'il, deputy prime minister and minister of the interior, indicated in his directives the necessity of co-operation with other concerned parties in this matter. It was necessary to exert and expedite efforts to apprehend gangs of smugglers and shipments of drugs. Thus, contact was made with Maj Gen Muslim Ahmad Muslim, the chief of the Border Guards Intelligence Bureau, for the purpose of establishing a concerted effort by all parties concerned so as to set traps and have units conduct observations of the movements of the smuggling ships. Close observation was also needed of smugglers and suspected smugglers on the northern coast.

For this purpose, meetings were held between Maj Gen Farug al-Sahn, chief military commander of border security and Maj Gen Mamduh Salim Zaki, commissioner in charge of drugs, to study the methods of operations used by smugglers. Lieut Col 'Abd al-Razzaq Salih was entrusted with the drawing up of the necessary plans to combat the smuggling of drugs so that these do not reach the coastline.

The information that had reached Col Muhammad 'Abbas, chief of operations and Col Sayyid Ghayth, director of external operations, indicated that a Lebanese and Egyptian gang was attempting to smuggle large quantities of drugs aboard the Lebanese ship "Hasan" which eventually left Beirut harbor. The smugglers had planned a meeting between the Lebanese ship and an Egyptian ship in the middle of the sea for the purpose of transferring the drugs from one ship to the other. The Egyptian ship would then carry the drugs to a certain area near the al-'Ajami coast, near Alexandria, to anchor at about five kilometers from the coast. But this attempt was foiled as a consequence of close observations of the Lebanese ship movements.

The operation was headed by Colonels Mustafa al-Kashif, and Ahmad Nada, and Majors Farug abu-al-'Ata 'Imad Rashid, Majdi Husayn, Mahmud 'Abd al-Rashid and Shafiq al-'Ashri. It was clear that the circumstances were such that the two ships could not meet as planned. Since the Lebanese ship was under close observation, the smugglers decided to head somewhere near the coast where they deposited the sealed drugs, which were inside rubber tyres, in the sea-bed. The intention was that these would be picked up later. The Lebanese ship retreated after that for fear of being chased.

There was cooperation between those responsible for combating drug smuggling and those in charge of border security. Marine units supplied with wireless equipment helped to identify the suspect areas and these underwent combing operations. Owners of fishing boats were willing to assist in retrieving part of the packages of drugs which had floated to the surface of the sea water.

The smugglers had attempted to enlist the help of owners of fishing boats to retrieve the packages for large sums of money.

The combined units continued in their search in an attempt to identify the areas where the remaining drugs were hidden. The search lasted for a long time during which the marine units were in danger of being drowned on account of high winds and high seas.

Some of the fishermen supplied the authorities with information relating to the whereabouts of the sunken drug packages. Nineteen packages of drugs were retrieved at dawn, weighing one ton. The drugs, smuggled from Lebanon, were of the brand "Zahrah Hibon" [Owl flower].

Investigation of the matter was undertaken by Cabd al-Qadir Ismail, director of customs. The drugs seized were valued at one million pounds. The authorities are still at work attempting to apprehend the gang members who are Lebanese and Egyptian. Interpol has been contacted for the purpose of apprehending the Lebanese leader of the gang.

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KENYA

BRIEFS

BHANG GROWER SENTENCED--A man has been fined 3,000/- or ordered to serve six months in jail for growing bhang. Orwaru Oremo of Bassi Location. Ogembo Division, appeared before Kisii senior resident magistrate D.S.K. Aganyanya. Prosecuting, Chief Insp. J. Shiundu said that on September 17, Oremo was arrested by local assistant chief Jacob Nyanga who took him to Kisii police station where he was charged. Sentencing the accused, the magistrate said the accused has grown a large number of plants (300) which showed he was dealing in bhang, a dangerous drug. KNA [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 20 Sep 80 p 3]

CSO: 5300

CYPRUS

GANG ARRESTED IN LARNACA WITH TON OF HASHISH

Nicosia 0 AGON in Greek 17 Sep 80 p 1

[Text] Larnaca, 16 [September] (by our correspondent)--The quantity of hashish that was in the possession of three Americans, one Syrian, one Lebanese and one Englishwoman--who were arrested in Larnaca yesterday--amounted to 1 ton.

This statement was made before the court by Kiriakos Pisisoftas, police investigator in the Larnaca TAE [Criminal Investigation Department], in justifying the police request for an 8-day detention of the six arrested persons.

According to reliable information, the gang had a wide network abroad, where the "merchandise" was destined. From the preliminary stages of the investigation, it appears that the hashish was destined for the United States. According to the same information, many other people living abroad are also said to be involved.

It has been stressed that only a part of the narcotics is in the hands of the police; a search is being conducted, particularly in the sea, to discover the remainder.

The witness went on to say: "The Cyprus police are in direct contact with the International Police (Interpol) in order to establish the dimensions of the network and the collaboration of the arrested persons with other narcotics gangs abroad."

At the same time, it was reported in court that: Three of the arrested persons--the Americans: (Darios Curtis Mandes), (Denis Wade Graver) and (Timothy Edward Tyler)--have given statements to the police admitting guilt. The other three arrested persons--(Ilyas Manazir), a Syrian; (Tony 'Alawi), a Lebanese; and (Tessa Eave Tousson), an Englishwoman--have not yet given statements. [names in parentheses rendered from Greek spelling.]

Finally, the court approved the police application for an 8-day detention of the five arrested persons with the exception of the Syrian (Ilyas Manazir), who complained about ill treatment by the police. The court ordered that he be detained for 2 days and gave instructions to the police to prepare a report in connection with his testimony before the court about ill treatment.

[Photo caption] The six persons arrested in connection with the hashish case as they were taken yesterday before the Larnaca District Court which issued an 8-day detention warrant.

[Photo caption] Prokopis Yeoryiu, in charge of the Larnaca TAE [Criminal Investigation Department], displays the bags containing the narcotics to press photographers.

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ITALY

TWO IRANIAN HEROIN SMUGGLERS ARRESTED

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 31 Aug 80 p 10

[Article by Edoardo Stucchi: "The Meeting at the Station of Two Iranian "Super-Couriers" That Led to the Mercedes Stuffed With Packets of Heroin"]

[Text] The war against heroin traffickers continues. As we mentioned yesterday in another part of the newspaper, the fiscal police group of the customs department confiscated a Mercedes that was "stuffed" with heroin, valued at 10 billion, and arrested two international couriers: 39-year-old Javan Shavroukh, of Tehran, and 29-year-old Alai Amir Khosro, also of Tehran, but a resident of Holland. The two, with their "death" cargo, were stopped at the port of Spezia after a series of shadowings and checks.

The operation was triggered Thursday. Through international information channels, a report indicated the arrival in Milan of an Iranian, Javan Shavroukh, "big" among drug couriers, who was in liaison with the Middle East and northern Europe. On 26 August the Iranian arrived in Milan and took lodgings in a downtown hotel, on via Mazzini.

The fiscal officers immediately went after him and never lost sight of him. Not only that. From checks made at the hotel, it was disclosed that the Persian was making telephone calls, both in Italy and abroad: an indication that he might soon meet someone "to handle" a drug shipment. In fact, the meeting took place 2 days later. On the 28th, Javan Shavroukh left the hotel to go to Central Station, where a fellow-countryman was waiting for him. This was Alai Amir Khosro, the other trafficker, who later ended by being arrested by Customs. The latter had arrived in Milan a short time before and had taken lodgings in one of the large hotels near the station.

Another meeting took place the next morning. The two went to the station and took a train to Spezia. Once in the Ligurian city they went to the

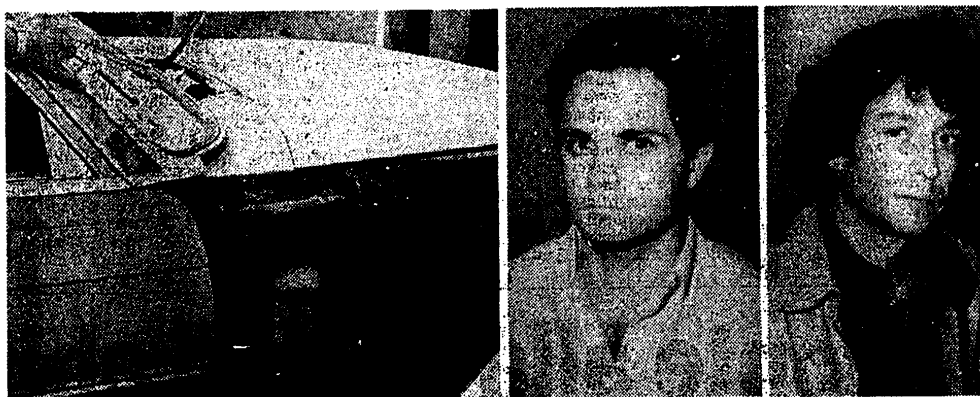
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port and to the offices of a maritime shipping agency to handle some business in connection with an automobile--a green "Mercedes 350 SE," that had arrived in Italy, from Latakia, Syria, on the motor ship, "Arcadia." The customs officers did not lose sight of the movements of the two men even for an instant and, in cooperation with their Spezia colleagues, decided to intervene.

Once outside the port, before the possibility of an exchange of drivers, the automobile was stopped. After a preliminary external check and a look at the documents, the fiscal officers accompanied the two Iranians to the Spezia Customs barracks. A 4-hour search bore fruitful results. One hundred and four plastic packets of various sizes, weighing an overall 12 kilos and 300 grams of "Turkish" heroin had been hidden in a series of false compartments. Two were at the sides; two packets were taken from spaces in the loudspeakers of the radio set, one from the starter of the ventilation equipment, and one from inside the framework of the rear light.

The spaces were protected by an iron lining covered with tar. The confiscated drug has a wholesale value of about 1 billion and, according to the degree of purity, the receipts obtainable from the retail price could have brought in from 10 to 12 billion lire.



One of the hiding places of the drug. On the right, those arrested: Alai Amir Khosro and Javan Shavroukh.

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The blow struck at the heroin traffickers with this most recent operation by the customs officers follows the discovery a few months ago of two important laboratories in the north. One was on Cardinal Mezzofanti Street, in Milan, and was forestalled even before it started to operate; the second, a more important one, is the Cereseto Castle, in Monferrato, where a plant for refining morphine had been installed and where heroin valued at 135 billion was confiscated.

This is the first time that a drug shipment was stopped at the port of Spezia, where the "Arcadia," which plies between Italy and Syria, calls. Generally drugs of Turkish origin, like that confiscated, have entered Italy either via Yugoslavia, by land; or by sea, from Adriatic ports, already patrolled by the customs officers.

The jailed Iranians allegedly are part of a vast criminal organization whose ramifications extend from the Middle East to Europe: a trafficking that is parallel to that engaged in by the Cosa Nostra axis--the Sicilian Mafia and the Marseillaise clan--which in recent days led to the capture of the "boss of bosses," Gerlando Alberti.

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ITALY

MORPHINE CONSUMPTION INCREASES IN MILAN

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 18 Aug 80 p 8

[Article by Augusto Pozzoli: "Disappearance of Morphine Supplies From Pharmacies; Increase in the Sale of 'Mutual Medical Plan Drugs'"]

[Text] Morphine overflows on the drug market in Milan. There are no official drug statistics, because by law the department that is charged with collecting them releases them 1 year later, but it now seems certain that consumption in the first 6 months of 1980 is 10 times greater than that of the past year. The amount used by morphine addicts is increasing steadily. In spite of its increased market availability, the demand for this drug is still greatly unsatisfied.

"We take morphine orders months in advance," according to a pharmacy on Buenos Aires Avenue that is open day and night, "but as soon as a drug user learns that the drug has arrived, the invasion begins. The signal is given to interested persons with impressive speed, and a few hours later our supply is exhausted. More are left without any than those who succeed in obtaining the boxes."

The phenomenon has obviously preoccupied the pharmacists. Alberto Ambreck, a pharmacy manager, said: "The number of drug users who come to the pharmacy is steadily increasing. Many are 15- and 16-year-old boys and girls. They present various prescriptions, some for 15 boxes of morphine at a time. If we have any, we are obliged by law to dispense it. What surprises us is that almost always the same names of doctors appear on the prescriptions."

Morphine began to come into fashion 2 years ago, in June, when former Minister of Health Tina Anselmi issued a decree that banned the sale of methadone in pharmacies. Many drug addicts who were already "utilizing the mutual health plan drug" thus became desperate, but the same doctors who had been paid up to then to assure the supply of methadone began to give prescriptions for morphine, thus replacing one drug with another no less harmful one.

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As was easily foreseen, the "mutual health plan drug" has not scratched the surface of the heroin market in the least and the phenomenon of the young victims of this tragic plague has assumed ever-increasing dimensions.

This past November a voluntary group that included doctors, psychologists, and social workers, opened a "center" on via De Amicis in which there was a "controlled" distribution of free prescriptions for morphine. At first the experiment attracted a great number of drug addicts who sought drugs at a low price; but here, too, the demand was greater than the actual possibility of distributing prescriptions.

Was this intervention legal? According to the Milan police, no. The promoters of the "center" on De Amicis Street were denounced before the judicial authorities, but the magistrate never felt that legal proceedings should be taken. There has been no further information regarding charges made by this same narcotics squad and the anti-drug group of the carabinieri against some tens of doctors who were paid to prescribe boxes of morphine.

Many cases of significant forms of exploitation have been verified. Drug addicts were obliged to pay from 20,000 to 30,000 lire for a prescription for each box. Not one of those engaged in this shameful business has ever been punished.

This was not the case in Florence, where the attorney general recently called for the arrest of two doctors who were distributing prescriptions for morphine. According to investigators, one of them Paolo Valloni, wrote prescriptions for a compensation of 50-70 thousand lire each. In Tuscany the judicial authorities intervened after having noted that "an industry in Florence which in 1978 had used 3 kilograms of basic morphine for its production used 4 in only the month of January 1980. All of that occurred in a city--specifically, Florence--where methadon was distributed from the anti-drug center of psychologist Pierfrancesco Mannaioni even before 1978 and has continued to be available.

A little more than a month ago the Florentine CMAS (Social Assistance Medical Center) compiled a list of doctors each of whom it authorized to prescribe morphine or methadone to not more than four drug addicts. To be eligible for this "supply," the drug addicts must, however, be "registered" and at any rate cannot have more than 6 vials at a time.

Dr Sandra Tretola, after having been in jail 33 days for having prescribed more than 6 vials of morphine to addicts at a time, but free of charge, said: "They came to me because the prescriptions of the CMAS doctors did not provide them with enough. Now that we are no longer there, those children have turned to heroin." This is occurring in Florence where, thanks to "prophet" Mannaioni, Minister Aniasi's proposal to have methadon distributed in the centers has been carried out for years. Here, too, the phenomenon has increased and some have died from methadone.

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ITALY

TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS IN MILAN REPORTED

Milan L'UNITA in Italian 1 Sep 80 p 3

[Article by Giuseppe De Luca: "Drugs, a Hospital, the Will To Be Cured"]

[Text] The subject of drugs continues to be painfully fashionable. It has again been fashionable in the last few days due to the capture of Mafia boss Gerlando Alberti and the discovery of a highly efficient refinery in Sicily producing quantities of heroin daily for sale throughout Italy.

This event represents a serious setback for the Mafia and for one who, at the expense of drug addicts, has been accumulating enormous wealth. But the battle, however difficult, is a lengthy one and far more complicated than a simple police operation. It is a battle which must be fought against traffickers, pushers, people's distrust which tends to isolate drug addicts, the inadequacy of our hospitals and even uncertainty in the choice of the most suitable types of therapy. It is a battle which can be victorious only if supported by the will of addicts to escape from their current condition. In two previous articles we wrote about drug distribution and therapeutic initiatives taken in other European situations. We are concluding with Lombardy and Milan where, in the city's largest hospital, we are witnessing an important and up to now positive experiment in the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Within a 2-year span the number of drug addicts recorded in Lombard health and hospital institutions has almost doubled. Even though the statistics in this sector must always be considered with caution due to the not always reliable criteria used in their compilation, there is reason to be concerned with the increasing magnitude of the phenomenon and its implications for the sociological aspect of health.

Without being alarmists but basing our thoughts on the data at hand, we can assert, as did certain foreign experts in the previous articles, that, if all Lombard drug addicts suddenly decided to seek rehabilitation, the hospital, health and welfare institutions would not be able to satisfy the demand and would very probably be faced with a serious crisis.

At the end of 1979 more than 5,000 drug addicts had begun treatment in hospitals, nursing homes, medical and social welfare centers and public and private ambulatories; meanwhile, there were about 1,200 cases recorded by police organizations (federal police, public security police and customs officers) responsible for the prevention of drug trafficking.

Furthermore, of these drug addicts about 1,700 ended up being rehabilitated the first time, while the remainder were readmitted or rehabilitated a number of times.

The average age of individuals who turn to public centers for help is 22 years, while the average age of those who use drugs continuously is about 18 years. This means that, in general, a period of 4 years elapses from the time a drug addict begins the repeated use of drugs until he enters a public or private assistance institution, a period which is obviously very long to attempt an effective psychosocial recovery and assure the credibility, feasibility and acceptability of programs aimed at controlling the distribution of heroin for preventive and rehabilitative purposes.

#### After Heroin, Cocaine

Heroin is the primary drug for drug addicts undergoing rehabilitation in hospitals. Then, in order of importance, come amphetamines and, close on their heels, cocaine, which is largely used in other European countries. On the other hand, morphine is the primary drug for only about 50 drug addicts. But another figure needs to be emphasized: about 1,200 drug addicts refuse to be treated, while those who complete the treatment number about 1,000.

Lastly, there is another element which serves to round out the Milanese picture: the market. This aspect has drastically changed during the past year, and certain phenomena are being followed with great attention. One such case is the Gratosoglio, an enormous dormitory complex where, until a year ago, drugs were extremely widespread and drugged youth abundant. The Gratosoglio has now ceased to be a sales outlet for drugs, and local, residential addicts are greatly reduced in number. This information would support the theory that drugs are a product and that, like all products, they are consumed if available; if not available, it is possible to do without them. However, drug addicts have substantially increased in Rozzano, a municipality on the outskirts of Milan, which, within the past year, has taken on the characteristics of an outlet for the sale of drugs.

In Milan, as in other cities we visited, there is no lack of initiatives in aiding drug addicts, some being spontaneous, other governmental. We

are observing at close quarters what is happening in the public sector and, more precisely, in the largest metropolitan hospital: the Niguarda.

Some time ago this institution launched an experiment in the hospital treatment of drug addicts. "In the beginning," members of the therapeutical team tell us, "there were serious difficulties; there were weighty environmental problems between the drug addicts, the other patients and the other doctors and also serious problems of internal drug traffic. The first conflict occurred in connection with admittance where the serious problem of lack of beds found no adequate solution; to that must be added the prejudice of the medical and paramedical personnel who saw in the drug addict a 'debauchee' responsible for his own misfortunes; when the first obstacle was overcome, the addict arrived in the proper department, where he was received with an outward show of irritation or like any other patient whose treatment was not urgent.

"The patient," they continue, "felt more keenly the sensation of being persecuted by society and, once visited by the doctor, realized very quickly that the doctor knew very little about his problem, was uncertain about the therapy and was unable to inspire even the minimum amount of confidence we consider fundamental in the doctor-patient relationship. In view of this situation it was realized that fear of the patient's abstinence syndrome was exaggerated and blown up out of proportion; pressures also increased as a result of the patient's continuous demands for help; very soon the patient's behavior became a serious obstacle to the smooth operation of the ward and it did not take long for the doctor-patient relationship to end and the addict refuge to be traumatically shut down."

#### Operational Stratagems

In time these problems were overcome, the criteria for admittance revised and the technical methods of intervention revamped. We can now say that the Niguarda experience offers documentary evidence that the drug addict can be treated in a hospital and that we can therefore put an end to the tendency to establish special therapy centers for drug addicts, which would be none other than mental institutions.

"It is a question," they continue, "of using certain very elementary technical-operational stratagems like those which consider that the hospital stay, often of short duration, offers an opportunity for further investigation to come up with a personal therapeutical program; that ambulatory treatment in accordance with the day-hospital plan functions well to the extent that the problem of the addict's free time while confined is resolved; and lastly, that his dismissal is not a simple 'goodby' but rather the continuation of a task begun in the hospital and subsequently followed up."

What, then, is the organizational pattern for intervention? The drug addict arrives at the hospital upon being sent there by public or private



services in a given locality; first, if there are no problems of medical urgency, he agrees to a clinical interview; he is then given treatment to overcome his drug addiction; lastly, he is returned to the community through the aid of the welfare department. The clinical interview is useful in ascertaining the factors which motivate the addict to submit to therapy. In fact, very often addicts come to the hospital only because they think that here they will be able to obtain "something" to help solve their problem.

What criteria are used to determine that a treated addict will fit better in one community than in another? "First of all," the therapeutical experts explain, "we have taken a census of a great many of the public and private communities operating in Italy in the drug addiction sector; we therefore know their work methods and therapeutical orientations, their internal organization and the quality of the professionalism of their staffs. As a result, the decision is made on the basis of our knowledge of the psychological and physical condition of the drug addict and the clinical-social characteristics of the community in question. For example, we generally avoid sending to an open, agricultural community one who at that moment (that is, upon dismissal) wants to participate in group therapy."

In conclusion, methadone is not used at Niguarda for the treatment of the drug addict. Nevertheless, more than 3,000 addicts have been treated up to now; every day an average of 15 drug addicts come for treatment, 4 to 5 for their first visit; it is estimated that the rate of success is about 10 percent, much higher than that of foreign institutions we have visited up to now. Why is methadone not used? The answer is simple: that drug was used for 25 out of 361 patients in 1976 and for 12 out of 274 in 1977 and, in most instances, the influence on the progress of the therapy was not positive. In cases where the patient's request was granted, there was a subsequent worsening of the abstinence syndrome and this, according to the doctors involved, occurred because the patient tried to feign illness in the hope of receiving another dose of methadone; this inevitably resulted in conflict and a subsequent breakdown in the doctor-patient relationship.

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ITALY

NARCOTICS AGENTS ARREST HEROIN DEALER

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 17 Aug 80 p 10

[Text] To remain inconspicuous he had chosen an anonymous small boarding-house on Via San Tomaso as a base for pushing heroin to addicts in Sempione Park. Nevertheless, the drug enforcement agents of the flying squad managed to follow his traces and put a stop to the traffic that had become particularly profitable for Claudio Repoli, 21, residing at Via dei Calchi Taeggi 20.

The activities of the youth, known among addicts as "Claudio the pusher," had been brought to the attention of the flying squad agents some time ago. So, Sergeant Siricu, the Royal Guards and the Di Ceglie Guards started an investigation of the trafficker by combing a number of boardinghouses where he was thought to be staying. When they found the small hotel, the cops lay in wait and towards 0630 the day before yesterday they saw the pusher coming in. The youth shuttled six or seven times a day between the boardinghouse and Sempione Park. He took a supply of drugs, sold them and came back for more.

When he entered his room the agents burst in behind him. The youth was searched: out came 100,000 lire, his last take. In the tiny room the police found a small precision scale and an envelope containing 50 grams of heroin, enough to prepare about 100 small envelopes valued at 20,000 lire each.



Claudio Repoli

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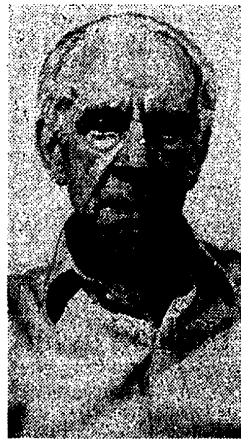
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ITALY

COCAINE DEALER ARRESTED, DRUG SEIZED

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 28 Aug 80 p 10

[Text] A 72-year old former house painter supplemented his pension by pushing small cocaine envelopes in Milan and in the hinterland. Exposed by Warrant Officer Mavilla and by Sergeant Sirigu of the Narcotics Division of police headquarters, he was arrested. He is Carlo Cesati, formerly a Swiss citizen, residing for years at Viale Bligni 42. In the two-room apartment registered under his name the police confiscated 60 grams of cocaine, a precision scale and all the equipment to cut and prepare the drug. Inquiries got off to a start during the last few days after an addict confided to the "narcos" that it was an old man known as "Cinto" who supplied him with cocaine. Once the pusher had been correctly identified by the investigators as Carlo Cesati it was not difficult to find out where he lived. The trap went off the day before yesterday when two noncommissioned officers, pretending to be interested in the purchase of a small amount of the drug turned to the former painter. Carlo Cesati who, among other things, bragged that he sold the best cocaine in Milan, upon realizing that the two men were cops suddenly felt faint. "It isn't true--stammered Carlo Cesati--I can't believe it." Then, recovering from the shock, he dejectedly watched the search of the two-room apartment that he rented on Viale Bligny 42. According to what has been ascertained, "Cinto," who was arrested for possession and pushing of drugs, operated not only in Milan but also on the "markets" of Monza and Cinisello Balsamo.



Carlo Cesati

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ITALY

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST IN MILAN--A 60-year-old known drug trafficker was caught with drugs hidden in underpants. At almost 60 years of age, Giuseppe Ceci, a resident at 8 via Panigarola, known to the police as "Don Peppino," has returned to jail. His usual "vice": drugs. This time he had hidden the drugs in underpants. The elderly trafficker was caught the afternoon of the day before yesterday at home by the Scalo Romana police. He vainly maintained that he was "clean." Hidden among underwear were 7 grams of heroin. A search of his apartment then revealed two small scales, numerous small cellophane envelopes, and 9 grams of mannite, a substance used to cut drugs. Giuseppe Ceci was on probation. A few months before, he had been arrested in Florence, again for the possession and sale of drugs. [Text] [Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 15 Aug 80 p 10] 8255

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SPAIN

ALGECIRAS HASHISH, MARIHUANA LINK IN MOROCCO-EUROPE DRUG ROUTE

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Sep 80 pp 150-152

[Article: "Sister Marihuana"]

[Text] During the tourist season, Spanish customs officials are catching five hashish smugglers daily in the small port city of Algeciras, the new major transfer point for the drug.

Day after day, spectators are thronging behind the fence at the landing dock for ferryboats from Africa in the harbor of Algeciras to watch "Pirri" sniff.

They are almost never disappointed: The German shepherd of the Spanish customs office who has been trained to find hashish makes a discovery at least once a day. Whenever the smuggled drug comes to light, the dog is applauded enthusiastically.

The daily crowds do not arrive just by chance. For 100 kilometers south of Algeciras, in the Moroccan Riff Mountains the quantity of hemp that is being grown is increasing steadily. Morocco is Europe's most important hashish supplier and the small port city of Algeciras in southern Spain has become the biggest hashish transfer point: According to a cautious estimate by Spanish customs authorities, approximately 50 percent of the stuff consumed in Europe gets to the North by way of Algeciras.

Annually, between 130 and 150 tons of hashish are sold illegally in Algeciras by narcotics rings and local smuggling gangs. In the meantime, the warehouse of the customs authorities contains such large quantities of the confiscated goods that security guards in the building had to be increased to deter thieves.

During the tourist season, the Guardia Civil, which consists of approximately 100 officials and operates in the port city of Algeciras around the clock in its search for hashish, catches up to five delinquents daily, most of them youthful adventurers and small crooks; 80 Germans were among them in Algeciras and Cadiz alone during the first 5 months of this year.

The police owes its quota of arrests less to Pirri, the dog, but rather to helpful hints from Morocco: The same dealers who sell the hashish in the Riff Mountains frequently transmit to Spanish customs authorities the auto registration numbers of their clients after concluding the deal.

Because prices can only be kept high when smuggling is not too easy: In this manner, the price has risen from DM 300 to DM 3,000 per kilogram within 3 years.

Anyone who gets caught by the police in Algeciras frequently has to spend 2 years first in pretrial confinement, because the provincial courts in southern Spain are as little prepared for the flow of drugs as are the jails.

In the Cadiz prison, for instance, where many of the hashish smugglers who get caught in Algeciras are sent, 220 prisoners are kept in a building which was planned for 140 inmates. For all the prisoners only three toilets are available all day.

"The sewage," one of the inmates told SPIEGEL, "leads through the room where we have to eat our meals." Another person complained that the food contains dead bugs and dirt. And: "Even small offenses are punished with beatings and weeks of solitary confinement."

Apparently, conditions are even worse in the detention center of the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on the Moroccan coast, another place where many captured hashish tourists land: Sleeping quarters of 12 by 5 meters house 25 prisoners each, sleeping on double bunks. There are no windows. Seventy persons share four sinks.

Eventually, when the trial takes place, the verdict is according to the rule of thumb: One year in prison for each kilogram found when arrested, the longest sentence is 12 years and 1 day. Only one who has enough money can buy his freedom from prison by posting bail of up to DM 30,000.

But the big-time dealers do not get caught in Algeciras anyway--they realized a long time ago that Algeciras, as well as Malaga, the other traditional smuggling port in Andalusia, has become too dangerous because, according to an underground smuggling primer which is circulating among dealers, the police "works well there." The 50-page handbook warns explicitly of these two ports.

The big-timers have already organized new trade routes, against which the Spanish police are more or less powerless:

Hashish plates, and more and more frequently hashish oil, are loaded on deep-sea yachts on Morocco's Mediterranean coast. They either take a direct route and dock at harmless small ports somewhere in Europe or else they drop their anchors in luxury yacht harbors on the Costa del Sol which are

crowded with tourists, for instance, Puerto Banus in Marbella. There they can unload their freight without being disturbed.

Frequently, there are also strong motorboats leaving Gibraltar in the afternoon for the Moroccan coast 11 kilometers away; they return at full speed across the strait loaded with hashish, and in the evening they throw the goods, which are fastened to bags of salt, into the sea near the Spanish coast. Within 6 hours the salt dissolves in the water, and at daybreak the hashish package drifts ashore by itself. Occasionally, when the recipient is interrupted while picking up the package, it happens that unsuspecting tourists find watertight packages containing hashish weighing as much as a centner.

The extent of the hashish trade between the coasts became apparent last May on Gibraltar, when Scotland Yard arrested on Gibraltar and in England hashish dealers who were involved in a transaction valued at approximately DM 1 billion.

In a hideaway that the bank manager Ambrosius Vinales had constructed in one of the numerous rock tunnels on Gibraltar, the police found pound bills valued at DM 120 million--intended as payment for hashish transporters in Europe and producers in Morocco.

Adventurers and addicts who end up in Algeciras, Ceuta or Cadiz can only dream of such sums. "We have nothing to do with the international drug-  
mafia or heroin scene. We are amateurs," a 27-year-old German writes not without professional pride; he is in jail in Cadiz for possession of 20.7 kilograms of hashish. "We are replacing 'brother alcohol' with 'sister marihuana,' because we believe in our drug."

Those who get caught, get their drug also in jail:

Hashish is smuggled into the prison of Algeciras inside hollowed-out melons or tennis balls that are thrown over the wall by someone on the outside.

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SWEDEN

POLICE ARREST 35 DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN STOCKHOLM PARK RAID

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 29 Aug 80 p 12

[Article by Claes von Hofsten: "Police Raid Parks to Combat Drug Trafficking"]

[Text] Now order should be restored to Stockholm's parks. The police launched a widespread raid on drug trafficking in the parks. Thirty-five people have been caught and drugs have been confiscated in equal proportion.

The raid was launched last week. Vitabergspark in Sodermalm was the first target. The wall behind Sofia Church in the park has been for many years one of the meeting places for what is called street trafficking in drugs. Many living in the area have complained about the state of affairs. Older people do not dare visit the park. Some violent crimes still have not been reported to the police.

"The parks are swarming with druge addicts, both buyers and peddlers," says Police Inspector Hugo Nyberg, head of narcotics investigations in Sweden. In all 22 policemen have been detached to the recently launched cleanup operation and they are working double shifts. Anyone found with drugs is arrested and brought in for questioning. Still, most of the ones caught have so little drugs on them that they can claim it's only for their own use and soon they are back out on the streets again.

The trouble with this kind of action is that the problem only jumps from one place to another. Police Inspector Nyberg emphasizes, however, the importance of keeping the drug addicts from thinking they can easily get away with breaking the law. "It's good to keep them worried," is how he explains it.

The National Criminal Investigation Department records all the information gathered at the questioning. The idea is to ascertain the modus operandi of drug peddling, to find patterns in its operation. Hopefully, the big suppliers will finally be tracked down.

Vitabergspark is only the first police objective; other exposed parks will follow, though not only the parks will be searched in the raids.

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SWEDEN

BRIEFS

DRUG SMUGGLERS SENTENCED--The repercussions of the proceedings against the so-called Limhamn gang have not yet been felt. The gang specializes in smuggling cannabis from Copenhagen to Malmo by hiding the drug in the anal cavity. Thursday three Malmo residents were given jail sentences for their participation in the gang's illegal dealings. In all 32 Malmo residents have been sentenced in the city court, including three sentences on Thursday. The gang leaders have had the others smuggle in no less than 80 kg of cannabis. Those sentenced on Thursday had bought their drugs from one of the gang leaders; one was found with 5 kg and the other two had 3 kg each. A 25-year-old received a two year prison term and 40,000 kronor fine for a serious drug violation and assault. The others, who are a little older, were each given a 1 1/2 year prison term and fined 25,000 kronor. [Text][Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 25 Jul 80 p 10] 9396

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SWITZERLAND

TWO TURKS SENTENCED FOR HEROIN SMUGGLING

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 14 Aug 80 p 9

[Article: "Lugano Trial of the Largest Heroin "Factory" in Europe; Transportation of Refined Drugs to Cereseto Castle by Turkish Couriers"]

[Excerpt] The drug factory that is located in Cereseto Castle in Casalese (the largest in Europe), discovered this past June by Milan Customs, had Middle East connections. The heroin was transported to Italy via Yugoslavia by Turkish couriers. Then it was refined in the very well equipped Cereseto laboratories.

This was disclosed yesterday during the trial of Mehemet Ali Alis and Abdullahtif, who were arrested on 1 February by the Swiss police as they neared Campione, Italy, in a taxi. Each was sentenced to 8 years in prison.

The investigation disclosed that this was the first time that heroin had gone through Switzerland. The Turkish couriers usually entered Italy via Yugoslavia. On that occasion the two criminals, perhaps because they believed the new route to be safer, preferred to go through Austria and then Switzerland.

The packets that contained 5 kilos of very pure heroin had been ingeniously hidden in the gearbox of their automobile. Then, at the last minute, when the "goods" began to scorch, the two Turks decided to remove the drug from the hiding place in the car and to transfer it to a taxi and go to Campione, Italy. They were spotted and stopped by the police before they reached Italian territory, where another courier was waiting for them.

It is almost certain that the pure heroin was being transferred to the Milan and Cereseto laboratories for the purpose of being processed and put on the international market. The narcotics squad police at police headquarters in Milan were immediately informed of the situation. A few days later Portaccio's men stopped another Turkish car and found 7 kilos 250 grams of heroin in the gearbox. The heroin is valued at about 7 billion lire on the retail market. A young Turk was arrested and another was reported but not found.

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TURKEY

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NARCOTICS CALLED INADEQUATE

Istanbul CUMHURİYET in Turkish 8 Sep 80 pp 1,5

Article by Ahmet Ozgen

Text Our country serves as a bridge in the flow of narcotics such as heroin, hashish and LSD to America and Europe. Narcotics enter at our eastern and southeastern borders, travel across Turkey and go on their way. Our country is also known to be used as headquarters.

The fight against narcotics smuggling is conducted hand in hand with international security organizations.

We talked with a top officer from the Narcotics Branch who gave us the following information on the forms the campaign takes:

Question Narcotics are known to be entering the country over our eastern borders. The eyes of the world are again on our country. Would you explain the reasons?

Answer Our country, actually, is used as a bridge or headquarters by narcotics smugglers. This is Turkey's role in international smuggling.

Plants grown in Asian countries like India and Pakistan are brought from these places to our country. In years past, Europe and America were sure that our country was the source. Indeed, poppy cultivation was banned in our country in 1971. However, it was understood that our country was only a transit point in narcotics smuggling and poppy production was resumed.

Question What is being done?

Answer An effective fight against narcotics smuggling is carried on in our country. The effort is extraordinary in Istanbul, which is a smuggler's paradise because of its population. It is still not adequate, however.

First among the major reasons for this is the lack of trained personnel. Of course, that is not all. There is not even a narcotics laboratory in Istanbul, yet working scientifically increases the impact of the campaign. We cannot search for narcotics by smell. It is not known how many people in our country use narcotics. The developed nations work systematically, so that they can even tell how much damage is done to the national economy by addicts. In short, for a positive campaign, our methods must be modernized.

The fact that the narcotics business is illegal, earning easy and plentiful money, increases the profit rate.

Taking a look at the market in this light, 1 kilogram of heroin is said to sell for 700,000 liras in our country, 60,000 marks in Germany, 100,000 guilders in the Netherlands and \$260,000 in the United States where the profit is at its highest.

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END