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JPRS L/9825

6 July 1981

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 30/81)



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WORLDWIDE REPORT
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CONTENTS

ASIA

AUSTRALIA

Arrests in Italy Linked to Australian Marihuana Sources (Various sources, various dates).....	1
Syndicate Operations, by Peter Blunden, et al. Stepped-Up Local Campaign Three-Continent Network, by Nicholas Rothwell, et al. Australian Growers	
Investigation of Heroin Ring Continues; Six Now Charged (THE AGE, 16 May 81).....	8
Ten-Year Sentence Given in Largest Cocaine Import Case (THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN, 30-31 May 81).....	10
Connolly Trial Hears of Shooting of Drug Supplier (THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, 19 May 81).....	11
Five Go to Trial for Selling, Trafficking in Heroin (THE AGE, 23 May 81).....	12
Arrests Made in Sydney, Melbourne Heroin Smuggling Case (THE AUSTRALIAN, 5 Jun 81).....	13
Informant Tells About Heroin Smuggling Conspiracy (THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, 5 Jun 81).....	14
Briefs	
Jail for Heroin Trafficking	15
Arrest in Thailand	15
Stiffer Drug Penalties	15

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HONG KONG

Doctors Remove Heroin Base From Courier's Stomach (Tommy Lewis; SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 20 May 81).....	16
Customs Officers Smash Heroin Distribution Syndicate (SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 28 May 81).....	17
Four Charged With Manufacture of Dangerous Drugs (SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, 29 May 81).....	18

INDIA

Briefs Delhi Opium Arrests	19
-------------------------------	----

INDONESIA

Heroin Smuggling Plot Uncovered, Trial Held (KOMPAS, 18 Apr 81; SINAR HARAPAN, 16 Apr 81).....	20
Discovery at Airport Death Sentence Demanded	
Marihuana Confiscated on Natuna Islands (KOMPAS, 30 Apr 81).....	22
Marihuana Cache Discovered on Anambas Island (HARIAN UMUM AB, 28 Apr 81).....	23

PAKISTAN

Police Seize 1.5 Tons of Hashish (DAWN, 21 Jun 81).....	24
Briefs Quetta Heroin Haul	25

EAST EUROPE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Briefs Pharmacy Burglarized by Addict	26
--	----

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LATIN AMERICA

BARBADOS

Briefs	
Drug Seizure Totals	27

CHILE

Briefs	
Pills, Marihuana Seized	28

COSTA RICA

Briefs	
Peruvians Arrested at Airport	29

MEXICO

May Results of Antidrug Campaign Reported (EL SOL DE SINALOA, 2 Jun 81).....	30
---	----

Further Reports on Cocaine Trafficking Ring (EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS, various dates).....	31
--	----

Cocaine, Suspects Seized
Ringleaders Sought
Four Released, Couple Held

Accused Opium, Heroin Trafficker Acquitted (EL IMPARCIAL, 4 Jun 81).....	35
---	----

Marihuana Traffickers Deny Charges in Court (EL MANANA, 3 Jun 81).....	36
---	----

VENZUELA

Briefs	
Cocaine Seized in Merida	38
Traffickers Arrested in Ciudad Guayana	38

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SOMALIA

Briefs	
Drug Seizure	39

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SWAZILAND

Defense To Protest South African Police Encroachment (THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND, 8, 9 Jun 81).....	40
Mandrax Trial Trial Comment	

WEST EUROPE

FINLAND

Customs Make Largest-Ever Cannabis Seizure (Jarmo Luuppala; UUSI SUOMI, 5 Jun 81).....	43
---	----

NORWAY

Oslo Police Fear Record Hashish Use This Summer (ARBEIDERBLADET, 19 May 81).....	45
Authorities Ready Counter-Offensive Against Hashish (ARBEIDERBLADET, 18 May 81).....	47
Court Sentences Yugoslav for Heroin Smuggling (AFTENPOSTEN, 16 May 81).....	48

AUSTRALIA

ARRESTS IN ITALY LINKED TO AUSTRALIAN MARIHUANA SOURCES

Syndicate Operations

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 28 May 81 p 1

[Article by Peter Blunden, David Hancock and Nicholas Rothwell: "Italian Arrests Point to Big Drug Ring Here"]

[Text] Australia has become a huge marijuana plantation for Mafia-style crime syndicates which export and sell vast quantities of the drug, say police.

Recent arrests in Italy and more than two years' investigation by undercover agents in three States have revealed a connection between a secret Calabrian "society", L'Honorata Societa, and marijuana growers in Australia.

Fifty-five members of the society were arrested on Wednesday in six cities in Calabria, southern Italy, on information supplied by Victoria's Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.

A large amount of marijuana, allegedly from Australia, was seized in the raids.

Police in South Australia, NSW and Victoria fear that an organised drug ring is diverting tonnes of marijuana abroad through safe smuggling routes.

In his royal commission report on drug trafficking in Australia, Mr Justice Woodward warned in October 1979 that L'Honorata Societa was entrenched in Australia, and that its members were active in the drug trade.

His report was given to Italian police, along with the findings of a two-year undercover Victorian police investigation of marijuana growing in the Sunraysia district of the Murray Valley.

During a series of lightning raids along the Murray detectives discovered vast quantities of marijuana, bundled for distribution.

The seizures confirmed their theory that drugs were being shipped out of the country as the Australian market could not absorb such quantities.

Yesterday the Victorian Police Commissioner, Mr Rod Hall, confirmed that Australian and Italian police had worked together, and said a report on the arrests in Calabria was expected.

"We have been making seizures of tonnes of marijuana in this country, and we thought we were finding too much to be used on the Australian market," he said.

"We strongly suspected the drugs were being exported--and in the light of what has happened in Italy it would seem the market has been Europe."

Police hope information from the Calabrian raids can help solve the murder of antidrug campaigner Donald McKay.

The head of the NSW police task force investigating the murder, Detective Sergeant Joe Parrington, flew yesterday to Griffith, in the NSW Riverina, named by Mr Justice Woodward to be the centre of Australia's marijuana industry and the headquarters of L'Honorata Societa.

The head of the South Australian Drug Squad, Detective Superintendent Peter Collins, said yesterday that the force had known for some time there was a "Mafia-style" drug organisation with international links operating in South Australia.

Victorian police investigations show towns in the Barossa Valley in South Australia to be focal distribution points.

Victorian police have been investigating L'Honorata Societa--and other Mafia-style organisations--ever since the Melbourne Market Garden killings of 1964.

The FBI and Italian Police have given specialist assistance based on their experience of Mafia operations abroad.

Stepped-Up Local Campaign

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 29 May 81 p 26

[Text] Melbourne: The man responsible for cracking the Australian connection of the Calabrian mafia is likely to be invited to Australia.

It was one of several moves being planned yesterday to step up the fight against the mafia-backed drug industry in Australia.

Authorities say that Colonel Franco Morelli would be able to provide vital information for drug-hunters in this country.

The Police and Emergency Services Minister, Mr Thompson, said that he would suggest the visit at today's meeting in Sydney of State Police Ministers.

He would recommend that the newly-formed Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence issue the invitation.

The method would be for the ABCI to ask the commander-general of the Italian police Commander Cappuzzo, to make Colonel Morelli available.

Mr Thompson said that Colonel Morelli would be able to establish a liaison between the police forces of Victoria, NSW and Queensland, which were investigating connections between the mafia and drug operations in Australia.

It was also hoped that such a visit would enable Australian police to have direct access to facts gathered by Italian authorities.

Colonel Morelli led raids on five southern Italian towns this week which led to the arrest of 55 men.

Three-Continent Network

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 30-30 May 81 p 4

[Article by Nicholas Rothwell, David Hancock and Peter Bluden]

[Text] Marijuana grown in Australia and smuggled to Italy is secretly processed by a Mafia drug network and sold on three continents, Italian police claimed yesterday.

Australian police have also uncovered evidence of a large-scale drug-running operation between Australia and New Zealand, based in three States and possibly linked to Italian secret societies.

Colonel Franco Morelli, of the Italian Carabinieri, who masterminded this week's drug raids across the south of Italy, claimed marijuana was being sold widely in Europe and Canada and large amounts of the drug in processed form, known as hashish, was finding its way back to Australia.

Colonel Morelli is to answer an appeal by the Commonwealth and State governments to come to Australia and help local police forces wipe out the L'Honorata Societa, the secret Calabrian society which is being held responsible for controlling the international drug network.

He is bringing with him a 460-page dossier with details of the society's international activities.

In an interview with THE AUSTRALIAN in the Southern Italian town of Reggio, in Calabria, Colonel Morelli outlined the complex smuggling operation.

He said the Calabrian raids found:

- A three-way link between Canada, Europe and Australia;
- A flow of millions of dollars between Mafia cells in Italy and Australia;
- Extensive illegal travel on forged documents between both countries;
- The possibility of a reciprocal trade in hard drugs from Italy to Australia;
- Evidence senior members of the society fly to Australia to supervise drug distribution here;
- Ransoms from kidnappings are used to finance drug operations in Australia;
- Evidence that "hit-men" have travelled freely to Australia.

Colonel Morelli described the network set up by the L'Honorata Societa as "the perfect bridge" for international drug trafficking.

Cash Flows

His report, which the Victorian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence is anxious to examine, traces drug and cash flows between the two countries.

Australian police believe a comparison between the Italian report and their own files, which date back to 1964, will supply enough evidence to smash the ring in this country.

Mr Carlo Macri, the magistrate prosecuting those arrested in Italy, said yesterday there was a definite link between parents and relatives living in Italy and Calabrian communities in Australian centres such as Griffith, in NSW.

He is also preparing a report on the laundering of "dirty money" and the drug trade between Italy and Australia.

But, in a telephone conversation with THE AUSTRALIAN yesterday, he refused to give any further details.

"You might be the relative of one of the arrested people out to get me," he said.

Italian police are still searching for suspects believed to be hiding as far away as Milan, Turin, Rome, Como and Messina.

Earlier this year, Italian police raided an old olive crushing mill and arrested 31 men.

The men protested that they were meeting over the current slump in olive oil prices, but when they were herded outside, the floor was littered with abandoned weapons.

Italian-style violence has also been occurring with increasing frequency in Australia.

Competition between ethnic groups, as well as Australians, is known to be intense in most marijuana-producing regions of Australia, and senior detectives in South Australia and Victoria have confirmed large caches of weapons were seized during some drug raids.

Imported

Police have uncovered isolated instances of people being forced to work for marijuana cultivators against their will. This had been observed in several States, particularly South Australia.

Drug squad detectives claim although drugs were clearly being exported overseas by cargo ships, a large amount of the illicit crops were still being imported into Australia.

In Adelaide, known to be one of several centres of the secret society involved in the smuggling, police say the past 12 months have been their busiest yet.

In two days this year they seized more than 12,000 marijuana plants worth at least \$3.5 million.

They say they have found evidence of a major drug smuggling ring operating between New Zealand and Australia.

Adelaide police believe more than 50 kg of hashish worth several millions dollars has been recently smuggled into Australia through Auckland, and it is known that mutual trafficking between the two countries is thriving.

Attempts to break the ring have already resulted in arrests and drug squad detectives say they are on the verge of making many more.

Australia's large Italian community, particularly those of Calabrian descent, are known to be bitterly upset at the week's developments. A large Italian workers' association in Adelaide is planning a formal protest at media coverage given to the Calabrians and their alleged Mafia links.

At a subcommittee meeting of Adelaide's Federation of Italian Emigrant Workers and their Families, members claimed stories revealing the drug links were "almost defamatory against the whole (Italian) community."

The group's secretary, Mr Frank Barbaro, said only a small percentage of local Calabrians were involved in the agricultural society, which was suspected of marijuana cultivation, but all would suffer increased tensions as a result.

He said that as in Griffith, NSW, where marijuana growing represented "easy money" to migrants struggling to make a living from the land, those involved had no prior criminal associations in Italy.

"We will be making a protest because we want people to see the issue in its proper context," said Mr Barbaro.

"It is wrong to say it (growing) exists because of people's Mafia links. It is something which evolved here in Australia."

Both Victorian and South Australian police have stressed that the recent arrests in Italy would not have been possible without the full cooperation of Australia's Italian community, many of whom have been terrorised by secret societies for years.

Australian Growers

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 6 Jun 81 p 6

[Text] In raids so far this year police in NSW, Victoria and South Australia have discovered tonnes of marihuana, worth more than \$100 million on the street. They are convinced this was only the tip of the iceberg.

The State and Federal drug squads have improved greatly their technical and intelligence work in detecting crops and breaking the influence of the main growers.

Victoria's "Operation Leo" has dealt a serious blow to the Australian-Italian connection and last week's raids in Calabria, Italy, was the result of two years' intensive investigation of links between Australian and Italian members of L'Honorata Societa.

But police in the area which allegedly produced the marihuana found in the Calabrian raids--NSW's southern irrigation areas, Victoria's Sunraysia, and SA's Riverland--cannot be certain that even the best detection methods will wipe out the drug crops which grow between and Adelaide along the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers. [as published]

And while they hail the breaking of links with Italy, they fear the penalties for growing marihuana will not deter individuals or organisations from growing the drug, and in large quantities.

In Griffith, however, the attention focused on the area in the past four years has led local police to claim that marihuana growing has been "wiped out on a large scale."

Inspector Ken Hewitt, the officer in charge of the Griffith division, said the marihuana industry was well under control and that "the problem in this town is no greater than anywhere else."

Senior Victorian police concede that a successful marihuana crop is "too lucrative" for many farmers not to take the risk.

During Operation Leo crops were found in unlikely spots. One was hidden without the owner's knowledge in almost-impenetrable scrub on a property on the Murray River. The water pump was concealed in a hollow tree stump, the river bank and the grower irrigation pipe was buried beneath rowed across to tend the crop from Victoria. [as published]

On the Murrumbidgee, a property owner has been charged with growing 3.5 hectares of marihuana with an estimated street value of more than \$50 million. With others, he is alleged to have cleared the scrub and put in \$30,000 worth of irrigation equipment, and drying sheds.

Police in the river towns speculate privately about growers' motives for cultivating marihuana. Some must be for the obvious and immediate financial return, they say, pointing to the huge houses, the "grass castles," built by families who keep only a few hectares of grapes. Alternatively they choose to grow marihuana to help to make up drought losses.

There are others among ethnic groups such as Lebanese and Turks for whom growing marihuana and smoking hashish is a normal activity in their homelands, and who are thought to "sub-contract" to sell what they do not use personally.

And, according to at least one senior police man, some growers are coerced into producing crops for the big drug "societies."

On arrest, he said, the growers told police they did not know where they would sell their crops--"somebody would take it." They accepted the prospect of full sentences "because they knew that someone would take care of mum and the kids."

"If we hear someone's growing it, we go out and have a look," said Sergeant Ron Rogerson of Balranald police station, the operations centre for the raid in February which netted the \$50 million crop.

"That was the biggest and only bust here, but the river country along the Murrumbidgee is so thick it could hide just about anything. I couldn't say there was no more marihuana around," he said.

River flats along the Murray are ideal for cultivating marihuana, according to local police, and there have been only three "high river" flows in the past 10 years.

To Senior Sergeant Ken Child, of Robinvale police, the high number of itinerant workers attracted by his area's grape picking make it a difficult task to keep track of, or detect marihuana crops on either side of the river.

Victorian police believe too much marihuana was grown south of the Murray last summer for local consumption, and there are no estimates as to the size of the crop this year--which is thought to have been the biggest for five years.

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AUSTRALIA

INVESTIGATION OF HEROIN RING CONTINUES; SIX NOW CHARGED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 16 May 81 p 10

[Text] The Victorian drug squad would continue to seek people allegedly involved in a \$1.6 million heroin-selling syndicate, a detective told Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday.

Detective Senior Constable Neil Fursdon was giving evidence at a committal hearing before Mr Anthony Ellis, SM, involving five people charged with conspiring to sell and traffic a drug of addiction between 1 December 1979 and 1 December 1980.

Those charged are Robert Maxwell McClure, 35; Cheryl Joy Cornish, 27; Donna Lee Morphett, 24; Wayne Anthony Buttery, 21 and Cheryl Lee-Ann Heinrich, 20, all unemployed and of no fixed address. A sixth, Ingreda Kornouchovs, also unemployed and of no fixed address, has been committed for trial in the Supreme Court in Victoria on 1 June.

Asked by Mr Phillip Dunne, for Mr McClure, whether any further inquiries were to be made, Detective Fursdon said: "We will look at avenues,"

Detective Fursdon said a provisional warrant had been issued for the arrest of a Brendon Keith Hocking. He said he was not aware of further arrests.

Detective Fursdon told the court that a Melbourne man who owned a number of massage parlors had been charged with importing heroin. He said the man had absconded on bail.

Detective Fursdon said the code-name for investigations into the alleged heroin ring was "Operation Trio" because three police squads, State and Federal, had investigated the case, and the Victorian drug squad still was.

He told the court that investigations into the alleged South Yarra, St Kilda and Prahran-based \$1.6 million syndicate came about as a "spin-off" from other drug-related inquiries.

Detective Fursdon said the alleged hierarchy of the syndicate was outlined to him in November 1980 by one of the then co-defendants in the committal, Stephen Alex Taylor, 28, unemployed and of no fixed address.

Mr Taylor has since been indemnified from charges against him. All charges were withdrawn last week as a result of a document signed by the Attorney-General, Mr Storey, and produced by the Crown Prosecutor, Mr D. W. McLeod.

The Crown is alleging that Mr McClure led the syndicate, and managed the whole operation.

The hearing is not finished.

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AUSTRALIA

TEN-YEAR SENTENCE GIVEN IN LARGEST COCAINE IMPORT CASE

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 30-31 May 81 p 3

[Text] A man was sentenced to 10 years' jail yesterday after being found guilty of possessing the largest known cocaine haul brought into Australia.

Wayne Eric Johnson, 31, diamond driller, formally of Vancouver, Canada, appeared before Judge Smith in Sydney's Darlinghurst Criminal Court.

Johnson had pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Judge Smith set a non-parole period of four years.

The Crown Prosecutor, Mr J. Lloyd-Jones, said cocaine weighing more than 6.5 kg, had been found in the lining of a large crate containing Bolivian artefacts.

Johnson was arrested on August 20 last year after taking possession of the crate which had been shipped to Australia.

Mr Lloyd Jones said an estimated street value of the cocaine haul was \$3.6 million.

Detective Sergeant D. Cogill, Federal Police, said in evidence that the wooden crate had been constructed with secret compartments.

He said the compartments held the largest amount of cocaine known to have been brought into the country.

He said Johnson was arrested in Mexico City in 1976 and jailed for possession of counterfeit United States currency.

He was deported to Australia in 1978.

Judge Smith said Johnson had told the jury that he did not know the crate contained the drug.

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AUSTRALIA

CONNOLLY TRIAL HEARS OF SHOOTING OF DRUG SUPPLIER

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 May 81 p 11

[Text] Sydney: A witness told the Central Court yesterday that he saw a drug supplier shot and his body buried in mountains near Wyong.

Warwick Jeffrey Hill, whose address was not disclosed, told the court that immediately before the shooting he heard the drug supplier refuse to hand over his heroin and his money.

Hill was giving evidence at the start of the trial of Leslie Connolly (26), unemployed, of Cessnock.

Connolly pleaded not guilty to the murder of Ronald Paul Batko at Cessnock on October 22, 1976.

Hill said he bought drugs from the Batko on various occasions and that at the time of the alleged offence Batko had a fairly big quantity of heroin that he wanted to sell.

"Les Connolly told him that he could sell some of it for him in Cessnock," Hill said.

Hill said that he, Connolly and Batko drove to Cessnock, where Connolly had to report to the police station to fulfil a bail condition.

Afterwards they had gone to Connolly's family home, where each had a shot of heroin. Then they had gone to a disused colliery nearby.

Hill said that Connolly wanted to take some heroin as commission. This could be replaced with other substances such as icing sugar.

Hill said that his car was giving some trouble, so he stopped. While at the front of it, he had heard the words "Get out of the car, Ron."

He said the next thing he saw was Connolly pointing a shotgun in Batko's direction. Connolly had directed Batko to move to the front of the car near the headlights and put his heroin and money on the ground.

Batko had refused three times and on the last occasion had said, "No you can shoot me." Hill said that the gun went off and Batko's body fell to the ground. The trial will continue today.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

FIVE GO TO TRIAL FOR SELLING, TRAFFICKING IN HEROIN

Melbourne THE AGE in English 23 May 81 p 17

[Text] Five people were yesterday sent for trial on charges of having conspired to sell and traffic heroin.

Mr Anthony Ellis, SM, sent the five to face charges relating to their alleged involvement in a \$1.6 million heroin-selling syndicate in Prahran, South Yarra, St Kilda and Balaclava.

The five are Robert Maxwell McClure, 35; Cheryl Joy Cornish, 27; Donna Lee Morphett, 24; Wayne Anthony Buttery, 21, and Cheryl Lee-Ann Heinrich, 20. A sixth, Ingreda Kornouchovs, 19, was committed to the Supreme Court earlier in the hearing.

They are charged with having conspired to sell and traffic heroin between 1 December 1979 and 1 December 1980. Mr Buttery also faces several fire arm charges.

In Melbourne Magistrate's Court yesterday Mr McClure pleaded not guilty and was refused bail, Mr Buttery pleaded not guilty and was also refused bail, Miss Morphett pleaded not guilty and a surety of \$2000 was fixed in her own undertaking, Miss Cornish pleaded not guilty and bail was fixed at \$20,000 in her own undertaking, and Miss Heinrich reserved her plea and a surety was fixed at \$1000.

Mr Ellis said: "The evidence does establish that here in Victoria a drug distribution syndicate was in operation during 1980 with a financial turnover amounting to some \$40,000 per week."

During the three-week hearing, one of the defendants, Stephen Alex Taylor, 28, was granted an indemnity clearing him of all heroin-related charges.

The six defendants are due to appear at the Supreme Court on 15 July.

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AUSTRALIA

ARRESTS MADE IN SYDNEY, MELBOURNE HEROIN SMUGGLING CASE

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Jun 81 p 3

[Text] Federal Police arrested a man on Wednesday when he tried to flush five bags of heroin down a motel room lavatory, the Melbourne Magistrates Court was told yesterday.

Allan Henry Mitchell, 38, formerly of Queensland, was charged with having been in possession of a prohibited import.

Detective Senior Constable Bernard Hansell, of the Federal Police, told the Chief Stipendary Magistrate, Mr K.J. O'Connor, the heroin had a wholesale value of \$150,000 and a street value of more than \$700,000.

Constable Hansell said Mitchell had played an important part in a conspiracy to import about 18kg of heroin into Australia.

A preliminary analysis of the heroin showed it to be between 65 and 70 per cent pure.

The day before his arrest, Mitchell had given a 20g sample of the drug to a man at the Melbourne Hilton Hotel with the expectation of a sale the next day.

Three people involved in the alleged conspiracy had been arrested in Sydney. Three pistols and a number of shotguns had been seized.

A five-month investigation into a conspiracy to import heroin worth \$28 million was continuing.

A conspiracy charge was pending against Mitchell.

Mitchell was remanded to appear in the same court next Thursday. No plea was entered. Bail was refused.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

INFORMANT TELLS ABOUT HEROIN SMUGGLING CONSPIRACY

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Jun 81 p 18

[Text] The police feared for the safety of an informant in an alleged drug conspiracy, the St James Court was told yesterday.

Mr Greg Scragg prosecuting, said it was alleged that Stanley Charlesworth, one of two men charged with conspiracy, contacted the informant on February 5 about a charter flight to Malaysia.

The informant was told that if he was prepared to fly to Malaysia and pick up a suitcase he would be paid \$200,000.

After this contact there were a number of telephone calls and meetings between the conspirators.

Charlesworth (55), of Padstow, is charged with conspiring with Sidney Wayne Warby and others to import heroin. Warby, of Baulkham Hills, faces similar charges.

Warby is also charged with having an unlicensed 0.22-calibre revolver.

Mr Scragg said that the informant, who was not named, had arrived in Sydney and was met at Sydney Airport by Warby and Charlesworth.

Heroin Cargo

They had gone to a hotel, where the informant was told that the cargo would be 18kg of heroin which was to be hidden in the plane.

The destination of the plane had been changed from Malaysia to Thailand.

The drug was to be loaded on the plane and returned to Australia.

Mr Scragg alleged that Warby had said at a meeting between the conspirators that anyone who obstructed the venture would be dealt with.

He was alleged to have shown the informant a Colt 0.45-calibre pistol.

Charlesworth and Larby were remanded in custody till June 18.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

JAIL FOR HEROIN TRAFFICKING--Recent Criminal Court of Appeal decisions had determined that where drug crimes were committed for profit, the emphasis by the courts should be on punishment and deterrent rather than rehabilitation, a County Court Judge said yesterday. Judge Hogg, who said the community was greatly concerned about the drug trade and its consequences, was sentencing a man who had been found guilty of trafficking in heroin. He sentenced Mehmet Gumus, 26, of St Georges Road, North Fitzroy, to two years jail, with a minimum of 18 months to be served before parole. Judge Hogg said police found 12.03 grams of cut heroin in a package in Gumus's flat. It had been mixed with glucose and contained .91 grams of heroin. A further .03 grams of the cut mixture was found on a cigarette packet in the flat. Gumus had been acting as keeper for an associate who had been selling the heroin, the judge said. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 21 May 81 p 19]

ARREST IN THAILAND--Bangkok, Mon--A West Australian had been arrested at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand with 300 grams of heroin in his possession, the police said yesterday. He is Richard William Montgomery (31) of Newman. His family live at Palm Beach, Queensland. The police said that the heroin was in two packets tied to his thighs under his trousers. He was arrested as he was leaving a hotel to fly to Bangkok. The police alleged that Montgomery had told them he had been promised \$1000 by a man in Bangkok to bring the heroin from Chiang Mai. They said that Montgomery had no money and had appealed to the Australian Embassy in Bangkok for help. He would appear in court in about a week. He had been charged with illegal possession of the heroin for sale. The penalty was death or life imprisonment. Five Australians are in custody at Chiang Mai for alleged drug offences. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 May 81 p 35]

STIFFER DRUG PENALTIES--Hobart--Tasmania has introduced a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and 20 years' jail for drug trafficking. The Police Minister, Mr Holgate, said yesterday the move was designed to offer more protection for the state's already closely-guarded, multi-million dollar opium poppy crop. Opium poppies, cultivated under licence in Tasmania by about 700 growers are sold to pharmaceutical companies. The previous maximum penalties for trafficking were four years' jail and a \$10,000 fine. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 3 Jun 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DOCTORS REMOVE HEROIN BASE FROM COURIER'S STOMACH

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 20 May 81 pp 1, 17

[Report by Tommy Lewis]

[Text]

Doctors at Queen Elizabeth Hospital yesterday operated on a man to remove a condom packed with heroin base from his stomach.

The condom was later found to contain 170 grams.

A senior customs officer said this was the first time such an operation had been performed.

And he warned that concealing drugs in the body is extremely dangerous as there is a great risk of condoms bursting.

He recalled a case last year when a drug courier, who escaped detection at Kai Tak airport, died of an overdose when the condom concealed in his body burst.

The man operated on yesterday was arrested on Sunday night at the airport on his return from Thailand.

He was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital and after medication one condom containing 110 grams of heroin base came out naturally on Monday morning.

The man told doctors he had inserted two condoms in his rectum and it was decided that if he could not pass it out an operation would be performed.

The heroin base in the two condoms made it the airport customs' largest single seizure of drugs concealed in this manner.

Customs officers said if the heroin base seized from the man is converted to No 3 heroin it would fetch \$170,000 on the retail market.

The arrested man is the second courier of the same Hongkong based syndicate to be arrested by customs officers at the airport in less than a week.

Between April 1 and Sunday, customs officers at the airport have arrested nine drug couriers — two Hongkong residents and seven Thais.

They believe there are two separate syndicates — one operating in Hongkong and the other in Thailand — responsible for smuggling drugs into Hongkong using couriers who conceal the narcotics in their bodies.

The syndicates are being investigated in both Hongkong and Thailand, the customs officer said.

It is believed customs officers here obtained vital information on the organiser of the ring following the arrest of

the two couriers.

The man is believed to be in Bangkok.

Informed sources said customs officers have contacted their counterparts in Thailand to help track down the man and to watch his movements and those of his associates.

It is believed the man is responsible for recruiting couriers in Hongkong to smuggle drugs from Thailand to the Colony.

Customs officers stationed at Kai Tak airport had been instructed to detain the man for questioning should he return.

Meanwhile, drug prices in Hongkong have plunged in recent months, indicating there are ample supplies here.

A kilo of No 3 heroin on the market today costs \$250,000 compared with \$400,000 last year.

"We know there has been a bumper crop in the Golden Triangle this year and it is expected that more drugs will be heading for Hongkong," a senior customs officer said.

"We are monitoring the situation and are watching the movements of people suspected of being involved in the drug trade," he added.

CSO: 5320

HONG KONG

CUSTOMS OFFICERS SMASH HEROIN DISTRIBUTION SYNDICATE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 May 81 p 14

[Text]

A young couple, married for only five days, were among four people arrested by officers of the Customs' Investigation Bureau who smashed a heroin distribution syndicate which operated on both sides of the harbour.

The arrests followed the seizure of 2 kilos of No 3 heroin worth \$500,000 on the street market, and \$50,000 in cash and bank gift coupons.

CIB's Assistant Superintendent Mak Kam-lau said last night that the CIB's breakthrough followed investigations which lasted nearly a year.

Informed sources said one of the arrested men is believed to be the mastermind of the syndicate, and customs officers were last night still hunting for other members of the syndicate still at large.

The breakthrough came on Tuesday night when CIB officers observed a transaction taking place in a car in North Point.

Following the arrests and the seizures, CIB officers later raided a flat in Yuet Wah Building, Leighton Road and seized a quantity of paraphernalia associated with the packaging of drugs. There were also traces of heroin in the room.

Meanwhile other officers raided a flat in Tsui Man Building, Village Road in Happy Valley and arrested a 53-year-old man.

On the premises, the officers also found a small quantity of No 3 heroin and amphetamine.

All through the night until early yesterday, CIB officers raided four different addresses in Happy Valley, North Point and Kennedy Town but there were no further arrests.

The four suspects were detained last night and are expected to appear in Causeway Bay Court today on charges of possessing and trafficking in dangerous drugs.

CSO: 5320

HONG KONG

FOUR CHARGED WITH MANUFACTURE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 29 May 81 p 23

[Text]

Three men and a woman went on trial in the High Court yesterday charged with the manufacture of dangerous drugs and possessing drugs for trafficking.

Yu Tit-hoi (27), unemployed, Sin Kwai-tong (34), unemployed, Tsoi Chi-guen (30), finance company manager, and Lam Suet-sin (24), housewife, pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice Mayo and a jury.

Senior Crown counsel James Dick told the court that on July 8 Narcotics Bureau officers were on surveillance duty keeping a watch on Sin Kwai-tong.

They saw him leave a Hongkong restaurant carrying a plastic bag, get into a private car and drive to Kowloon.

On the way he picked up Yu and Tsoi. Yu was carry-

ing a plastic bag which appeared to contain a box.

After Tsoi had been dropped off in Argyle Street the car went on to Yaumati and stopped near Wu Shan Street.

Yu got out of the car carrying two plastic bags and went up to the fourth floor of a building.

He came down again and went to a private car park where he spoke to a woman sitting at the wheel of a car, took from her two large white bags and went back to the fourth floor.

The police party followed him to a flat on this floor which they found barred by a wooden door.

They attempted to gain entry and eventually the wooden door collapsed, while Sin and Tsoi tried to hold it up on the other side.

They also found Yu and Lam in the flat.

The officers found evidence of drug manufacture as well as traces of heroin and substances used in the manufacture of drugs.

A mixture containing 415 grams of heroin was found in two plastic bags.

The lease of the flat was in the name of Tsoi.

The trial continues today.

CSO: 5320

INDIA

BRIEFS

DELHI OPIUM ARRESTS--Seventy kg of opium and hashish worth over Rs. one lakh was seized by the Central Bureau of Investigations from two persons on Tuesday. According to a CBI press release says PTI, Shyam Singh of Ghaziabad and Sudhir Batra, a local advocate, were arrested in this connection. Staff reporter adds: Three kilograms of contraband opium was seized by the New Delhi district special staff following the arrest of Zabir Ahmed, an alleged opium smuggler. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 May 81 p 10]

CSO: 5300/7010

INDONESIA

HEROIN SMUGGLING PLOT UNCOVERED, TRIAL HELD

Discovery at Airport

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 18 Apr 81 p 3

[Excerpts] A plot to smuggle heroin was uncovered by customs officers in charge at the Halim Perdanakusuma Airport, Jakarta on 2 May 1980. CKS was accused of playing the role of an intermediary between the owner of the merchandise in Medan and a woman in Jakarta who was asked to carry the heroin to Holland.

Witness Mrs Sri Rosalia confirmed in court that on 29 June 1979, CKS called at her house and requested the witness to be prepared to smuggle heroin from Indonesia to Amsterdam.

On 3 July 1979 the witness was invited to go to the Hotel Mandarin to negotiate with TKH and CAM. During this first meeting, it was planned to carry between 10 and 20 kgs of heroin to Amsterdam.

The witness came to Medan to pick up the merchandise on 27 April 1980 at the request of TKH by long distance from Medan on that particular date, both the witness and the defendant were welcomed by TKH and CAM. The visitors were up at Hotel Danau Toba, Medan for the night. While staying at this hotel, according to the witness, her luggage was taken away and filled with heroin by TKH.

In a previous court session, inquiry was made concerning the operation which led to the arrest of the owner of the contraband. The chief judge deplored the fact that the customs office worked alone without the collaboration of the police or the district attorney. Witness Kencik Sudarsono of the Customs House replied that if information concerning this matter were freely given out, he feared that the persons to be rounded up would get away.

Death Sentence Demanded

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 16 Apr 81 p 12

[Excerpts] Public prosecutor P. Sitindjak, in a session involving the smuggling of 5 kgs of heroin before the East Jakarta District Court Thursday, demanded a death sentence against the defendant named CKS.

Defendent CSK, 47, accompanied by witness Mrs SRU, left for Medan in April 1980 to pick up the heroin made available by CKH and to smuggle it out of the country to Amsterdam by way of Halim Perdana Kusuma Airport [in Jakarta].

Witness Mrs SRU was asked by the defendant to join his gang, because he was convinced that the witness was capable of clearing the contraband past customs at the airport.

But the defendant did not know that the said witness was in fact an informer of the customs house at the Halim Airport. That was why the attempt to smuggle the heroin was foiled as Mrs SRU carried the 5 kgs of heroin before boarding the plane for Amsterdam on 2 May 1980.

With the prearranged, feigned detention of Mrs SRU, the defendant was easily traced and arrested. On the basis of witness Mrs SRU's information, a member of the narcotics gang based in Amsterdam, CAM by name, was arrested and sentenced in Holland, while CKH, who supplied the heroin in Medan, managed to escape.

9300
CSO: 5300/8339

INDONESIA

MARIHUANA CONFISCATED ON NATUNA ISLANDS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonsian 30 Apr 81 p 12

[Excerpts] Half a ton of dried marijuana which was to be smuggled abroad was confiscated by the police of Tanjung Pinang and was scheduled to be destroyed Thursday. Lt Col Kemas Djohar, commandant of Police Area 404, Riau Archipelago, told KOMPAS Tuesday that the dried marijuana was confiscated last 26 April on Mengkait Island, one of the islands in the Natuna group, Riau Archipelago Regency, on the South China Sea.

A fisherman named Zulkifli, residing on Mengkait Island, came to Tanjung Pinang one day and reported the unexpected presence of boxes on this island. Zulkifli took a sampling of the contents from a damaged box and showed it to the police.

It turned out that the boxes contained dried marijuana. Subsequently, some policemen were dispatched to the locale, but the heaps of boxes were nowhere to be found.

After some searching, other inhabitants on the island reported that some boxes had been moved to an adjacent island Ripung Island and buried underground. The police headed to this island and found four submerged boxes of marijuana.

According to some inhabitants, other boxes had been whisked to Penting Island, and here 10 boxes were uncovered. Investigation on Mengkait Island netted four more boxes. A few days later, around 10 April, six more boxes were found on Genting Island.

Three more boxes were discovered on Mentayu Island. Finally, a total of 39 boxes, containing 493.5 kgs of dried marijuana, was collected. They were transported from Mengkait Island to Tanjung Pinang aboard a plane belonging to CONOCO Oil Company on 26 April. It required two trips to move the haul.

On the same date, 4 more boxes weighing 46 kgs were found and this batch was stored at the Tanjung Pinang police station.

Lt Col Kemas could not as yet ascertain the owner of the contraband, where it came from or its destination. He was sure that the marijuana was to be transported overseas. Island inhabitants reportedly saw a ship approaching Ripung Island one night, but no one could be sure whether it was the same ship that discharged the marijuana.

9300

CSO: 5300/8339

INDONESIA

MARIHUANA CACHE DISCOVERED ON ANAMBAS ISLAND

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 28 Apr 81 p 6

[Excerpts] An officer in charge of Sector Command 404-04, Tarempa, Riau Archipelago, recently found a cache of 500 kgs of marijuana in a Tarempa County city, Anambas Island, South China Sea, about 500 miles northeast of Pekanbaru.

Police suspected that the contraband was to be smuggled overseas. Brig Gen Haji Hudioro, chief of the 4th Police Precinct in Riau, who received the report about the cache, told NATARA News Agency at Pekanbaru Tuesday that the as-yet unidentified owner of the marijuana is still at large and being sought by the local police authorities.

Hudioro said that as a result of intensified guard and supervision at places long known as gateways for narcotics smuggling in this region, members of the syndicate are now trying to make use of isolated islands as stepping-stones to escape detection by the authorities. However, he added, they forget that the inhabitants on those islands are extremely alert against narcotics smuggling.

9300
CSO: 5300/8339

PAKISTAN

POLICE SEIZE 1.5 TONS OF HASHISH

GF221830 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jun 81 p 10

[Excerpts] Over one and a half tons of superior quality hashish was seized in a 72-hour joint trawling operation by the Crime Investigating Agency (CIA) and the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board (PNCB) near Phitti creek, about 6 miles deep in the sea from Korangi creek.

The hashish was packed in plastic bags, kept in containers and wrapped in polythene bags. The containers were dumped in deep sea water near Phitti creek, waiting for shipment abroad.

The chairman, Pakistan Narcotic Control Board, Mr Miraj Hussain, got a tip that a gang of international drug smugglers was trying to smuggle out a large quantity of fine quality hashish through sea routes.

The Sind police chief, Arbab Hidayatullah, was informed about it and deputed a CIA party to assist the joint operation deep inside the sea. The operation started on 17 June when the CIA requisitioned a diver to identify the spot where the hashish was dumped.

So far, the police have recovered 60 containers from the sea and search for others was continuing till our going to the press. An official of the PNCB was of the opinion that the smugglers have dumped over 3 tons of charas in the area.

Meanwhile, preventive staff of Pakistan customs have also seized 1,456 kilograms of contraband charas from the same spot near Wagudar Island, about 25 miles off Karachi port.

The customs staff used their own patrol boats and combed the area for more than 48 hours and recovered the charas from beneath the sea.

The preventive staff have initiated the investigations to trace out the culprits. The customs men are also searching the sailboat or the trawler used in transportation of the contraband charas to the area.

CSO: 5300/4609

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

QUETTA HEROIN HAUL--Quetta Narcotics Control Department officials seized 2 kg of heroin from two smugglers when they were bringing the drug into Quetta on 22 June. [GF251924 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 23 Jun 81 p 4 GF]

CSO: 5300/4610

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

PHARMACY BURGLARIZED BY ADDICT--An unidentified drug addict entered the Prague pharmacy "Na porici" during the night, stealing ampules with morphine and codeine, as well as other containers with drugs. [Prague ZEMEDEL'SKE NOVINY in Czech 17 Jun 81 p 4]

CSO: 5300/3010

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE TOTALS--Bridgetown, Wed., (CANA)--Nearly seven million dollars' worth (3.5 million U.S.) of illegal drugs--mainly marijuana has been seized by Barbados Customs officials so far this year, according to Press reports here. The NATION newspaper has carried official figures from the Customs Department showing the street value of narcotics seized between January and May 31, at \$6.8 million (3.4 million U.S.). In the 12 months between August, 1979, and 1980, there were 73 seizures. About 3,573 pounds of marijuana, worth an estimated \$7.1 million, was confiscated. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jun 81 p 5]

CSO: 5300

CHILE

BRIEFS

PILLS, MARIHUANA SEIZED--Customs military personnel arrested four persons in the commune of Conchali on the charge of consuming and trafficking in drugs in an operation in which a doctor was said to be involved. The arrests took place on the corner of Altona and Pasaje Versailles streets in Conchali. The persons arrested are: Zenon Rigoberto Meza Flores, 41 years of age; Alejandro Flores Silva, 23 years of age; and Victor Rojas Silva, 18 years of age. According to reports by uniformed police the ring was headed by Meza, who was found to be in possession of 320 doses of phenobarbital and 523 "Primadonas," tablets which were sold in that district at a price of 150 pesos each. Also found were three containers full of desbutal and 15 empty ones which had already been sold. According to the customs personnel Flores and Rojas were under the influence of drugs at the time of their arrest. Later, 135 gm of marihuana were discovered in Arrigada's home. Meza, when interrogated, is said to have stated that they had acquired the desbutal from a doctor whereas he obtained the phenobarbital from the Psychiatric Hospital through his brother who at the present time is receiving treatment there. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 May 81 p C-6] 9204

CSO: 5300/2354

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

PERUVIANS ARRESTED AT AIRPORT--A shipment of 2 pounds of cocaine, worth about 2.5 colones on the black market, has been confiscated from two Peruvian women at the Juan Santamaria international airport by agents of the Drug Control Section of Public Security, according to official sources. Elena Vivas Ramos and Luisa Mercedes Donayre, both natives of Peru, are being held in a San Jose prison and have been turned over to the courts of justice on charges of cocaine trafficking to the detriment of public health. The two Peruvian women were carrying bags of the drug attached to their legs and to their bodies at brassiere level by elastic bands. However, "the two women matched the pattern of suspicious persons" and were immediately taken to a special room where they were asked to undress so that they could be checked. It was then that the bags and elastic bands appeared. During their confessions, the women stated that after departing from Lima, Peru, they had traveled to Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica. It was determined that the drug was to have been sold in our country. The principal distributor was identified as a Cuban names Jose who had been charge with drug trafficking in Peru. The Cuban uses a series of identities to thwart the authorities. He is known as Armando Gonzalez, Orlando Morales, Charlie, Jose, Castrito, etc. [Excerpts] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Jun 81 p 10] 8143

CSO: 5300/2360

MEXICO

MAY RESULTS OF ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN REPORTED

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 2 Jun 81 p 10

[Text] "Day by day, the activities being carried out by forces from the Office of the Attorney General of Justice in the battle against drug trafficking are becoming more difficult, because of the fact that, on the one hand, a resumption of that activity is not being allowed and, on the other, those engaged in the latter are becoming extremely technical, and seeking the best means to prevent the action we are taking from being the most successful possible."

In making the foregoing comment, Hector Aviles Castillo, coordinator for Zone 06 of the permanent campaign against the drug traffic, noted that, in any event, there will be a continuation of the established programs, which will be improved as situations occur, and that there will at no time be any letup in the fumigation of plantations and the investigations conducted to locate both drugs and individuals involved in the planting, cultivation, harvesting and distribution thereof.

He added that the results accrued during May indicate that 31 persons were arrested and held for trial for crimes against health, from whom two long-barreled and four short-barreled weapons were confiscated, as well as 29 useful rounds of ammunition, and seven vehicles used in some way to commit the crimes.

Also seized were 313 kilograms and 525 grams of marihuana, and 2 kilograms and 962 grams of opium gum, a drug brought from other parts of the country to this state for marketing.

Commenting on the destruction of plantations, he remarked that 774 poppy plantations were destroyed by fumigation, over an area of 229,466 square meters, as were 35 marihuana plantations over an area of 7,710 square meters, and one mixed plantation on 200 square meters.

The manual destruction involved 1,728 poppy plantations on an area of 798,445 square meters, and 22 marihuana plantations which were spotted and destroyed on an area of 2,919 square meters.

2909
CSO: 5330/27

MEXICO

FURTHER REPORTS ON COCAINE TRAFFICKING RING

Cocaine, Suspects Seized

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 7 May 81 Sec B p 1

[Text] The largest cocaine shipment in memory was seized yesterday by Federal Judicial Police forces in an operation carried out personally by the group chief, Comdr Luis Calderon, and forces under his orders, in this town; and the leading distributor of this drug in the northern area was also captured.

Approximately half a kilogram of cocaine worth more than \$700,000 (16.8 million pesos) was confiscated by members of the Federal Judicial Police, who also succeeded in capturing Gabino Wilsar Rodriguez, who had been operating in this border port and was apparently making his first contact, committing for the first time the crime of illegal distribution and export of the aforementioned drug.

It was said that Wilsar Rodriguez' arrest took place on the main square of this town, as he was supposedly awaiting a contact and, for the time being, attempted to sell something to the local addicts.

The individual in custody was kept under surveillance for several days, but he apparently noticed the pursuit and attempted to escape when he was captured, with 43 grams of cocaine in his right boot.

After being subjected to questioning, he said that the rest was located in his residence, which he gave as 1417 Madero Street in Sabinas, Coahuila, where the wrappers containing the pure cocaine were found, inside a package of bimbo bread.

It was claimed that Gabino Wilsar Rodriguez had also been operating at the site known as Piedritas, in the municipality of Ocampo, and that he is a native of Cuatrociénegas, where he has another residence at 206 Ocampo.

Five other persons, two men and three women, were arrested along with Wilsar Rodriguez, including his wife, named Audelia Sanchez de Wilsar, and another person named Catarino Pruneda Sanchez. Last night, the investigations were being continued by the federal prosecutor, C. Xavier Elizondo, to whom all those under arrest were turned over.

As for the drugs, EL DIARIO was told that they were to be sent last night to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic itself, to be properly analyzed;

inasmuch as there is no suitable laboratory in this port for obtaining a chemical reaction that would determine the purity, or whether the substance actually is the well-known cocaine.

Yesterday, the analyses made with the reagents that the Federal Judicial Police have in this port indicated that the substance was actually cocaine of very pure content which would, therefore, be worth over \$700,000, about 16.8 million pesos, on the black market.

Ringleaders Sought

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 8 May 81 Sec D p 1

[Text] With the arrest of Gabino Wilsar Rodriguez, the clue may be found that will make it possible to detect a large number of underworld figures engaged in drug trafficking, prominent persons who are implicated in this illegal business. This was revealed yesterday by sources in the agency of the Federal Public Ministry.

The action carried out by the Federal Judicial Police represents a major effort to eliminate drug distribution from this port, and the most vital aspect is the attempt to learn the identity of those using this port to export drugs to the United States, the leading customer of the trafficking underworld.

It was said that since the arrest of Gabino Wilsar Rodriguez, and others being investigated at the agency of the Federal Public Ministry, an attempt has been made to learn the identity of the "fat fish," the main ringleaders who are directing the operations, using for this purpose people like Wilsar Rodriguez for distribution and exporting.

It has been many years since a major drug seizure was made in this port. The one which took place yesterday involved half a kilogram of cocaine worth over 17 million pesos. About 15 years ago, a heroin shipment of 1.5 kilograms was also seized, and was later removed from the district court, because it was pulverized sugar.

The Federal Judicial Police agents under orders from Comdr Luis Calderon, and the latter, personally, conducted the investigation which ended with the seizure of the drugs and of six persons possibly involved in this crime. Yesterday, more arrests were made, although this could not be confirmed. All that was observed was the incarceration of other individuals in that department, whose depositions were taken as part of the completion of the probe related to the cocaine.

It was claimed that, in this way, prominent leaders of the drug traffic would be captured, and it was even said that Gabino Wilsar Rodriguez is apparently a novice in this illegal business, because it was learned from the questioning that this was the first cocaine sale transaction that he made in this port and during his criminal career.

Although the simple chemical tests made of the seized cocaine shipment showed at the outset that the substance was that drug, it will still be sent to the Office of the

Attorney General of the Republic for more thorough tests, to determine the level of its purity, or whether it shows "cuts," as they are called in underworld jargon, in other words, whether it has been adulterated with other substances to increase the weight of the drugs.

The investigation is being conducted personally by the group chief, Comdr Luis Calderon, who succeeded in arresting Wilsar, as well as his wife and four others who were involved in the deal, some without being aware of it, but with great evidence of coparticipation. However, this will have to be decided today, by the Federal Public Ministry agent, Xavier Elizondo, who is personally completing the pertinent probe, aided by the assistant prosecutor.

Four Released, Couple Held

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 10 May 81 Sec C p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Xavier Elizondo, ordered the release of four of the six persons who were arrested by members of the Federal Judicial Police under orders from the group chief, Comdr Luis Calderon.

It was said that the federal prosecutor's decision was announced yesterday morning, and the physical release of those under arrest was ordered at 1245 hours, when they left the municipal public jail, where they had been at the disposal of Elizondo himself.

The agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Xavier Elizondo, decided that those four persons did not have any liability for the commission of a crime, also establishing that they were only in the same residence in which the cocaine was found; because they are relatives of the couple who were engaged in the distribution of that drug, namely, Gabino Wilsar and his wife, Audelia Sanchez de Wilsar.

The individuals who were released are Eduviguez Aguilar Guzman, Elodia Aguilar Guzman, Catarino Pruneda Sanchez and Luciano Sanchez Rodriguez, all of whom were captured in Sabinas, Coahuila, in the house where Gabino Wilsar resided, and where the half a kilogram of cocaine was discovered.

It was also said that they were placed at the disposal of the federal judge of the second district court, Gilberto Carlos Canto Lopez, yesterday.

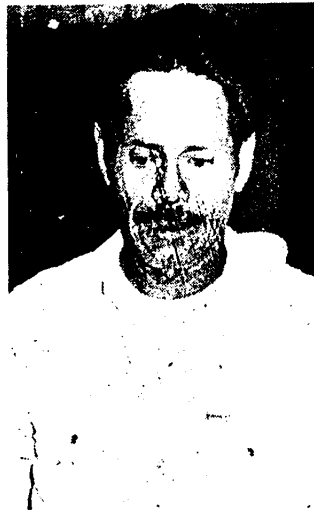
In addition, it was reported that the drugs will be received in this border port this morning, because they had been in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, where the laboratories of that entity made the tests, the results of which may possibly be announced by next Monday.

It was learned that the investigations are being conducted throughout the entire coal producing region, as well as in Nuevo Laredo and Piedras Negras, for the purpose of capturing those involved in this crime, and that Wilsar has given important details regarding the drug traffic.



Gabino Wilsar Rodriguez, arrested with
half a kilogram of cocaine

Audelia Sanchez de Wilsar, wife of Gabino



Catarino Pruneda Sanchez, also arrested

2909
CSO: 5330/27

MEXICO

ACCUSED OPIUM, HEROIN TRAFFICKER ACQUITTED

Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 4 Jun 81 Sec A p 2

[Text] The first district judge, Pedro F. Reyes Colin, ordered an acquittal in the case of Jesus Nieblas Ortiz, who was accused by the Federal Public Ministry of a crime against health in the degrees of purchase and sale of raw opium gum and heroin possession; and hence the accused was given an immediate and absolute release, after having been incarcerated for 3 years in the General State Penitentiary, without having received a release on bail.

Also acquitted were Pedro Real Rios and Gabriel Lagarda Rios, who were accused of the same crimes attributed to Nieblas Ortiz.

Jesus Nieblas Ortiz, a long-time fighter in the ranks of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], became leader of the Federation of Workers and Peasants of South Sonora in Ciudad Obregon, and director of the Laborers Hiring Center in the town of Emplame, during the term of President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz.

Background of the Case

On 14 Jun 1978, while Jesus Nieblas Ortiz was having breakfast at the Yori Inn hotel in Ciudad Obregon, he was arrested by Second Comdr Armando Martinez and agents Julio Valencia and Antonio Perez, of the Federal Judicial Police, who then remanded him to the Federal Public Ministry. Eventually, an order of official imprisonment was issued against the individual in custody, as well as Pedro Real Rios and Gabriel Lagarda Rios, who were also captured for the same crime against health.

Acquittal

When he issued the verdict in the case, Judge Pedro F. Reyes Colin, witnessed by his secretary, Francisco Javier Salido Araiza, gave an immediate, absolute release to the three accused persons, having reached the conclusion that the property on which the opium was being processed was, or is, in fact, owned by Nieblas Ortiz (No 220 Tlaxcala Street, in Ciudad Obregon), but that this did not necessarily mean that he knew that opium was being processed in the aforementioned residence.

The verdict also states that, although it is true that the foregoing was relevant to the order for official imprisonment of Jesus Nieblas Ortiz, such evidence does not constitute suitable proof for convicting him in this verdict being issued; because the liability attributed to him by the Federal Public Ministry has not been penally proven. Inasmuch as there is not sufficient evidence to attest to the existence of a crime against health, it is proper to order an acquittal (penal action 158/78).

2909

CSO: 5330/27

MEXICO

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS DENY CHARGES IN COURT

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 3 Jun 81 Sec B p 10

[Text] During investigations conducted yesterday in the third district court, seven members of a ring of presumed drug traffickers which was broken up by Federal Judicial Police agents a few days ago cynically denied their ties with the drug traffic, and claimed to have been tortured by their captors; while Armando Juarez Melendez was used as a "scapegoat," because he claimed that he was the owner of the half ton of marihuana which was seized, and that the others took part in this business "under deception."

Armando Juarez Melendez tried to excuse the ringleaders of the gang, perhaps expecting to receive a large sum of money in payment for having borne the full weight of the law; because he insisted that he, personally, went to La Huerta, Jalisco, to purchase the 478 kilograms of marihuana for half a million pesos.

He said that a driver carried the grass to this town in a Torton truck, and that the drugs were covered with crates containing such fruit as lemons, mangos and tamarinds. He claimed that, upon arriving at his residence, he requested the aid of Guadalupe Torres Sanchez and Mario Gonzalez Ramon to unload the vehicle, but deceived them by telling them that only fruit was involved.

However, the report submitted by the Federal Judicial Police indicates that all the members of the ring were arrested in Armando Juarez' residence while they were attempting to load the marihuana in a van and a pickup truck,

The report states that, in Juarez Melendez' residence, his brother Ovidio was also arrested, as were Jose Arturo Villalobos, Oscar Constancio Mancillas Gutierrez, Antonio Rivera Nazar, Gonzalo Gonzalez, Guadalupe Torres Sanchez and Mario Gonzalez Ramon.

Despite the fact that all of them were remanded when a prior medical examination had been made of them at the health center, noting that none of them had been beaten, when they appeared before the judge they claimed that the Federal Police had tortured them; and, to "prove it," their defenders turned over to the judge individual doctor's certificates stating that all of them showed signs of physical violence.

The Federal Judicial Police identified Oscar Constancio Mancillas and Antonio Rivera Nasar as ringleaders of the gang. It was they who bought the half ton of marihuana

in La Huerta, Jalisco, giving their supplier 400,000 pesos as advance payment, and paying the rest 2 weeks later.

Both were responsible for requesting the services of Gonzalo Gonzalez to hire people to unload the grass, and later, for taking it across the river to the United States.

Gonzalo Gonzalez himself was to carry it across the river with the help of the Juarez Melendez brothers, Guadalupe Torres Sanchez and Mario Gonzalez Ramon; while Jose Arturo Villalobos Castillo would be in Laredo, Texas, to receive the grass shipment in order to transport it to Houston, Texas.

Armando Juarez Melendez, Guadalupe Torres Sanchez and Mario Gonzalez Ramon claimed that the Federal Judicial Police arrested them at the major's post as they began to unload the Torton truck, and that both the vehicle and its driver (who carried the load from La Huerta, Jalisco) were taken to the grounds of the Federal Palace.

Neither the driver nor the Torton truck which carried the grass was placed at the disposal of the third district judge.

2909
CSO: 5330/27

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED IN MERIDA--Merida, 22 May (INAC)--The Judicial Police [PJ] of the State of Merida has seized a quantity of cocaine valued at 1 million bolivares. The cocaine is almost 80 percent pure, which means it has a high value on the consumer market. The scales showed the weight of the cocaine to be over 1 kg. This information was released this afternoon by Darío Vargas Flores, chief of the PJ, Merida Branch, who added that the police operation had been in progress for more than 2 months and that its goal was achieved today when they raided the home of Jorge Luis Parra Trejo, 26 years of age, who lives on 16th Street, Belen, Merida. Parra Trejo, who has a long record of arrests for drug trafficking, was arrested and passed on to the police for the required interrogation. An attempt will be made to confirm the existence of an international connection which has extended its action into the Andean region. The chief of police reported that Parra Trejo attempted to bribe an officer of the PJ by offering him 200,000 bolivares. The PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] confiscated two special scales for weighing drugs, a rifle which can be dismantled, a Magnum revolver, a 38-caliber revolver, a photographic camera and \$300 during the raid. This equipment makes it appear that Parra Trejo was also engaged in the smuggling of arms. [Text] Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 May 81 Sec 4 p 35] 9204

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN CIUDAD GUAYANA--Puerto Ordaz, 18 May (Special)--The Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] dismantled a ring of drug traffickers which was operating in the iron region and consisted of two Ecuadoreans and one Venezuelan. They seized from them 200 tubes of cocaine in a luxury apartment located in the residential complex Altavista 2 in Puerto Ordaz. Attorney Jose Pernia Rosales, chief of the PTJ office in Ciudad Guayana stated that the arrested traffickers are Cristobal Cantantini Viteri, 37 years of age; and his wife Belsaida Cariel Burgos, 29 years of age, both Ecuadorean citizens with Venezuelan resident visas. The other person arrested is Jesus Vivas Linares, 28 years of age, a native of Casigua Cubo in Zulia State, who served as a courier in bringing the drug in from Colombia. Dr Pernia said that the cocaine tubes seized from the traffickers sold for 300 bolivares apiece. The PTJ is preparing papers on the arrested persons to place them at the disposal of the courts of justice. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 May 81 p D-20] 9204

CSO: 5300/2354

SOMALIA

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE--On 15 June the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] of the Somali police force seized 38 kg of hashish hidden in cowhide drums. This was disclosed this morning by the head of the CID, Challe Lt Col Sulayman Umar, in a talk to Sonna reporters in his office. He disclosed that the haul, from Dar es Salaam, belonged to Ahmad Mahmud Farah and Abdullahi Mahmud Farah, both on board a Somali airlines flight from Dar es Salaam. The CID head said that the drugs were seized when new antidrug techniques were used to track the hashish and he added that it is the duty of every Somali to fight drugs and at the same time inform (?the police). [Text] [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 22 Jun 81]

CSO: 5300/4750

SWAZILAND

DEFENSE TO PROTEST SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE ENCROACHMENT

Mandrax Trial

Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 8 Jun 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] The defense lawyer in the drugs trial of two South Africans, Mr BA Dlamini said last week that he would approach the authorities to protest against what he described as "encroachment" by South African policemen to interfere with people in Swaziland.

Mr Dlamini accused a senior policeman, Assistant Superintendent Enock Masondo, of having allowed two white South African policemen to interrogate his clients in the police station in Manzini on February 23 and 24.

Mr Dlamini said at one time the two SAP men interrogated the accused in Assistant Superintendent Masondo's presence and later he gave them an office at the Manzini police station where they allegedly interrogated them without supervision.

Assistant Superintendent Masondo denied this. He said, however, that in cases of drugs, in this case Mandrax pills, valued at about E800,000, the South African and Swasiland police help one another.

Mr Masondo said at one time two South African policemen came to the police station to ask for help in connection with another case they were investigating in Swaziland. He did not say what the case was.

He said he gave them one of his men who took them to the Ezulwini valley in pursuance of the investigation.

"Can you show us any authority that empowers you to do that?" Mr Dlamini asked. The Magistrate, Mr JAM Khumalo intervened at this question and said this was a question of law and that it would be unfair to expect a policeman to answer that.

Assistant Superintendent Masondo said if the South African police have information on a matter he was investigating they feed him. He said this was common practice.

Mr Masondo said he could not remember how long it had taken him to bring the case to court. Mr Dlamini said he was not surprised, because, he alleged, the investigation was done by the SAP who allegedly fed Mr Masondo who accepted all the information they fed him with.

"You do not know because you handed them over to the policemen of another country and accepted anything they fed you with," Mr Dlamini said.

Mr Masondo denied this and said the reason was that it was an exceptional case. He had to send the docket to the Director of Public Prosecutions because he did not know how to charge them.

The Mandrax pills also had to be sent to Johannesburg for forensic tests. He said he gave them to a Warrant Officer Fouche of the South African Police. Fouche personally brought them back after the tests.

"Who was this Fouche and how does he figure in a crime committed in Swaziland?" Mr Dlamini asked. Mr Masondo said Fouche was merely assisting and that he was in Swaziland in connection with another matter but did not say what it was.

At this stage the prosecuting attorney, Mr P Flynn protested against this line of cross-examination on the grounds that it was irrelevant to the trial before court.

The Magistrate agreed. "South African police encroachment may be a serious matter, but I doubt if this is the correct forum to air disaffection," Mr Khumalo said.

Mr Dlamini said he was bringing this up because it was serious to the security of the inhabitants of the Kingdom and said he would take it up with the appropriate authorities.

The accused were Mr and Mrs Nusterdein who were charged under the Pharmacy Act because there is no law in Swaziland directly banning Mandrax as is the case in other countries.

Two others who were arrested with them will be charged separately.

Assistant Superintendent Masondo said he received a tip-off and proceeded to the George Hotel where the four were arrested. At the police station he searched their belongings. While he was doing so, he received an anonymous phone call tipping him to search room number 42 in the George Hotel where he found the Mandrax haul.

The other bags were found in room number 41. An application for the acquittal of the two on technical grounds was refused by the Magistrate. Mr Dlamini said the two were due to fly to Mauritius the following day. He said they had obtained the pills from India.

Mr Dlamini said the Pharmacy Act requires proof that they were not pharmacists or doctors. The Magistrate found that the circumstances in which they were found carrying large quantities of Mandrax pills in a hotel were unlikely to be the activities of genuine doctor. The case was postponed to June 19.

Trial Comment

Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 9 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] In a report of a magistrate's Court hearing involving possession of the drug Mandrax published in yesterday's Times it was stated that prosecuting attorney Mr P Flynn objected to a prolonged discussion by the defense on the encroachment of the South African Police in questioning the accused as being irrelevant.

This was quite correct, but we would like to make it clear that it was Mr Flynn, and not Mr Khumalo the Magistrate, who went on to say: 'South African Police encroachment may be a serious matter, but unfortunately I doubt if this is the correct forum in which to air disaffection.'

We are glad to attribute this comment to the attorney who actually made it.

CSO: 5300

FINLAND

CUSTOMS MAKE LARGEST-EVER CANNABIS SEIZURE

Helsinki UUSI SUOMI in Finnish 5 Jun 81 p 7

[Article by Jarmo Luuppala: "More Than 12 Kilos of Cannabis, Largest Seizure of Drugs"]

[Text] On Wednesday in Oulu Finnish Customs seized the largest amount of cannabis ever in the history of drug confiscation in Finland. Customs found a total of 11.4 kilos of marijuana and 0.9 kilos of hashish on an Indian ship. The monetary value of the confiscated drugs amounts to a total of 500,000--700,000 markkas.

The Indian freighter Ratna Nandini arrived in Oulu empty via East Germany last Sunday. The ship was to be loaded with urease in Finland.

However, customs heard rumors that cannabis was available from the ship, and on Wednesday customs conducted a surprise raid of the ship.

Special inspectors found 12.3 kilos of cannabis from the superstructure of the ship.

No real effort had been made to conceal the drugs. The cache had apparently been taken out of hiding for importation into the country, states Customs Secretary Aarne Panula.

Investigation Continues

Panula says that the investigation of the ship will continue and it is possible that more drugs will be found.

Individuals from Kemi and Kokkola familiar with ship inspections have been brought in to conduct further investigations. In addition to this, a diver has been made available in the event that some drugs were thrown into the sea.

"However, nothing has been found in the sea."

There are also dogs on the scene, which according to Panula is very decisive in that the investigation of the ship is exceptionally difficult.

"There could be thousands of bottles of whiskey on the ship, but it would be extremely difficult to find them," states Panula in describing the task at hand.

Several People Have Been Detained

Customs has also received assistance from the Oulu Police.

The ship has a staff of more than 50 people. During this investigation customs has detained several men, but Panula will not give the exact number of those detained. Also the nationality of the men has not been disclosed.

Panula does not believe that there was a ready buyer for these drugs in Finland.

"It does not seem probable, but certainly a market would have been found since there is a shortage of cannabis in Finland."

Finland's Largest

The street price of cannabis is 40--60 markkas per gram so that the monetary value of the confiscated drugs is approximately 500,000--700,000 markkas. The consignment would have made hundreds of thousands doses.

Until now the largest confiscation of hashish in Finland was 11 kilos.

10576

CSO: 5300/2362

NORWAY

OSLO POLICE FEAR RECORD HASHISH USE THIS SUMMER

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 19 May 81 p 9

[Text] Twenty-five kilograms of hashish in the course of 4 months! This is what the narcotics police have confiscated in Oslo. This means that this year the police can come up with double last year's catch. "We could easily have gone out in Oslo and brought in 100 persons with drugs on them," Police Section Chief Arne Huuse said to ARBEIDERBLADET.

"We view with alarm the spread and distribution of hashish and other drugs. Oslo in the summer is a time of worry for the narcotics police. New and old places of selling are blossoming. I am afraid that Oslo will set a record this summer," Huuse said.

"What is the police strategy?"

"We are now concentrating heavily on the latest selling channels. We are trying to catch as many sellers, or "pushers," as we can. Recently we have had some success in concentrating on this area.

Police Section Chief Huuse said to ARBEIDERBLADET that a total of 36 kilograms of hashish was confiscated in Oslo in 1980. So far in 1981, in just 4 months, we have already confiscated about 24 kilograms. It is therefore not improbable that the 1981 confiscation can be double that of last year.

"We have noted that hashish has spread beyond the circle of misusers. Hashish is about to become an alternative intoxicating drug to alcohol for more and more people. If we went out in full strength in the city I think we could bring in about a hundred persons with drugs on them. But there would be little sense in making a general arrest of users. But I do think we can get the pushers. We are going to concentrate more on those who sell at the last place before the drugs go to the users."

"Does this mean that you, too, are in favor of stronger punishment? Professor Bratholm suggests 21 years."

"Selling drugs is a serious crime and should be punished accordingly. I am in favor of raising the penalty to 15 years."

"Those who sell often use the drugs themselves. Is there any sense in imprisoning them?"

"They are sitting in Norwegian prisons today for drug abuse. They are there for selling. I cannot see that there is any mitigating circumstance in their use of drugs," Police Section Chief Arne Huuse said to ARBEIDERBLADET.

A Straight Line from Beer and Hashish to Heroin

"Those liberal toward the use of hashish are increasing. More and more people are accepting the use of hashish and are using it at home in safety. The result is that new people are exposed to hashish and thereby exposed to the danger of going over to stronger drugs. There is a straight line from beer and hashish to heroin. I think that the campaign against hashish that the Central Council for Narcotic Problems has begun is positive, even if brochures alone are not enough."

Senior Doctor Per Nyhus in the State Center for Children's and Young People's Psychiatry thinks it is important for society to take a clear and uncompromising attitude toward hashish.

"In Denmark and Holland a permissive attitude has been accepted. Hashish is just something that has to be lived with. Experience from these countries is not tempting to follow. Hard drugs are so much a part of the hashish picture. I think it is important to support all kinds of actions that 'strike back.'"

"Who are the hashish liberals?"

"Well, I think I see them among older youth from the better parts of the city. They don't frequent the drug milieu necessarily, but they buy drugs and use them at home in safety. "Cannabis is culture," some of them say. This is foolishness that says drugs are not harmful and paves the way for a drug culture. We have to come to a decision, have a clear attitude. As a contribution to this, the campaign against hashish is good," Senior Doctor Nyhus says.

9124
CSO: 5300/2348

NORWAY

AUTHORITIES READY COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AGAINST HASHISH

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 18 May 81 p 16 by Jan O. Helgesen

[Text] Every fifth Oslo youth between 15 and 21 has used or is using hashish. Hashish has spread to every single valley and town in the whole country. More and more people are accepting hashish as a normal intoxicant. Now the authorities are fighting back with a large campaign against hashish.

Every single young person in the whole country between 13 and 19 will soon receive a personal letter from Social Minister Arne Nilsen and Church and Education Minister Einar Forde.

Behind the campaign is the Central Council for Narcotic Problems. The Section Chief in the Central Council's office, Ketil Bentzen, told ARBEIDERBLADET that hashish abuse is so serious that the authorities have to do something.

"The abuse of hashish has spread extremely fast, and it is no longer just a characteristic of Oslo. There is hardly a town or valley in which hashish is not found. But the problem is greatest in the cities. One gets a good idea of the spread when one realizes that one out of five young persons in Oslo has used or is using the drug."

"Just the same, aren't you trying to shoot a sparrow with a cannon? Some people think that hashish is one of the weak drugs, and that a campaign against it led by the state seems unnecessarily dramatic?"

"I disagree completely. Hashish is an evil, and the authorities have the right to speak their mind. We have noticed a tendency to accept hashish and to minimize the problems that hashish is known to bring with it. Young adults are slipping. We have seen the difference just in the last 2 years."

"Is a campaign like this the right medicine?"

"That is debatable, but the brochure contains some hard facts that will make people realize more about the harmful effects of hashish. It is important to realize that we are not directing ourselves at the typical clientele, to "losers." The campaign is part of a broader mobilization against hashish. The authorities want such amobilization because hashish has spread far beyond the usual circles of abuse," Ketil Bentzen said to ARBEIDERBLADET.

9124

CSO: 5300/2348

NORWAY

COURT SENTENCES YUGOSLAV FOR HEROIN SMUGGLING

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 16 May 81 p 18

[Text] The 36-year-old Yugoslav citizen who was found guilty of smuggling in about 1,100 grams of technically pure heroin to Norway last fall was sentenced in the Eidsivating appellate court yesterday to 10 years' imprisonment. The sentence was unanimous and in agreement with the prosecutor's demand, District Attorney Ole Haugstad. The convicted man asked for a stay of sentence. A reduction of sentence of 206 days was made for the period of his arrest.

There has never been a more severe sentence in Norway for a drug crime, but a few others have received equally long penalties. The penalty for breaking paragraph 162 of the criminal code, the so-called "professional-paragraph," is 10 years' imprisonment. But the law allows an increase of the maximum penalty by 50 percent when several crimes have been committed in violation of the same law.

The convicted man had brought pure heroin into Norway twice, and the first time he had sold the drugs to distributors. He was stopped by the police when he attempted to smuggle 1,085 grams of heroin to the country. The value of this amount would have been, if it had been sold to users on the street, about 10 million kroner.

In its sharp decision, the court stressed the nature of the drug that the accused smuggled in and attempted to smuggle in, heroin, the most dangerous of narcotic drugs, as well as the significant value of the drugs.

In a mitigating direction, the court took account of the 36-year-old's partially frank confession, and of the fact that he cooperated to a certain extent with the police after his arrest. But the court did not find that much weight should be put on this in handing down the sentence for such a serious crime.

9124
CSO: 5300/2348

END