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JPRS L/10489

3 May 1982

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 20/82)

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AUSTRALIA

FIGURES SHOW 1980 CANNABIS CONFISCATION ON 26 PLANTATIONS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 Mar 82 p 4

[Text]

Australian police dug up more than 2.4 tonnes of cannabis found growing on 26 plantations in 1980, according to the latest available police statistics.

A confidential Federal police report shows that State and Federal police around Australia uncovered nearly 10 hectares devoted to the crop in 1980.

Police believe the true extent of cannabis growing in Australia is considerably bigger than they have managed to detect.

Increases in the number and size of operations detected last year compared with those found in 1980 indicated cannabis farming is flourishing.

The 1980 figures show, however, that the scale of operations detected in Victoria is signifi-

cantly lower than that in four other States, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales.

The weight of crops found is of the undried product. Once dried for use, the cannabis is many times lighter and much more valuable on a weight basis.

Police sources said yesterday that the conservative estimate of the market price for domestically grown cannabis in 1980 was \$1 a gram wholesale to syndicated dealers and \$1.50 to \$2 a gram for street retail.

However, a considerable premium is paid for imported concentrated forms of cannabis. Police figures for 1980 show that imported cannabis oil fetched a street price of \$30 to \$50 for half a gram.

CANNABIS FARMING IN AUSTRALIA					
POLICE SEIZURES IN 1980					
STATE	No. PLANTATIONS	TOTAL HECTARES OF CANNABIS	No. OF PLANTS	UNDRIED TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)	No. OF PEOPLE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED
			(+200 seeds)		
NSW	8	.303	12,105	518.1	11
Vic.	3	.242	3,480	9.7	3
Qld.	4	2.144	21,496	1049.9	6
SA	7	6.614	65,380	710.5	20
WA	1	.030	300	2.0	2
			(+82,776 seeds)		
Tas.	3	.607	6,176	113.4	4
			(+82,876 seeds)		
Total	28	9.940	108,937	2403.6	46

No. Figs. for ACT, NT
Source: Australian Federal Police confidential documents.

CSO: 5300/7543

AUSTRALIA

DRUG LAWS REASSESSED; MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION OPPOSED

Report Recommendations

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Mar 82 p 3

[Text] CANBERRA--A call by a group of prominent Australians for the legalisation of marihuana has put pressure on the Federal Government and the community to reassess drug laws and attitudes.

The group has sparked public debate in an effort to get people to face up to society's double standards concerning the use of marihuana as opposed to alcohol and cigarettes.

It also is anxious to focus attention on the inability of present laws to cope with flourishing criminal syndicates and police corruption.

The group's recommendations were contained in a discussion paper on alcohol, cannabis and heroin sponsored by the Australian Foundation on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

The report was distributed last Monday for release this Monday, but the embargo was broken yesterday by the Sydney Telegraph — part of Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Ltd organisation.

The best-known and most influential members of the committee included the Law Reform Commission chairman, Mr Justice Kirby, Tasmanian Liberal Senator Shirley Walters, the Australian Institute of Criminology assistant director Mr David Biles, and a former Queensland Police Commissioner, Mr Ray Whitrod.

The group recommended that individuals should be allowed to grow marihuana for their own use, but that all other production be prohibited. It called on the government to control manufacture and distribution to ensure a standard and uniform quality.

Prices would be set low enough to discourage black market activities, but not so low as to boost sales and increase use.

The group suggested that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation would be an appropriate body to carry out a feasibility study on a government monopoly.

The report also urged the government to decriminalise immediately the possession and use of marihuana and remove past

penalties.

It called for legislation — similar to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act in Britain — to be introduced, wiping all criminal records for possession and use.

It recommended that advertising be restricted and health warnings and age limits imposed. Driving under the influence of the drug would be treated as severely as drink-driving.

On alcohol abuse, the report said studies should be undertaken into "at risk" groups, such as journalists and Aboriginals.

On heroin, the committee endorsed some medical use, particularly for hard-core addicts dependent on crime syndicates.

Although the recommendations represented a consensus view, Senator Walters dissociated herself from the call for legalisation of cannabis and the setting up of a government monopoly.

The report said the implications of marihuana use were unknown, but it believed the drug possibly was less harmful than alcohol and tobacco on the basis of present medical evidence.

Senator Walters, who is the Senate standing committee on social welfare chairman, said she did not agree with the recommendation on marihuana.

In Brisbane, the Australian Medical Association Queensland president, Professor Tess Brophy, said she would not support a move to legalise marihuana.

"We have enough problems associated with the abuse of alcohol and smoking without compounding the problems associated with marihuana and its potential for harm," she said. "I think this legalisation call is a misguided move.

"Marihuana has been medically proven to have the potential for brain damage with its continued use."

The Mothers Against Drugs president, Mrs Marie-Ann Grosskreutz, said her group would lobby against any plans to legalise the drug.

"The legalisation of marihuana would not do anything about the problems associated with the drug," she said. "I would question the ability of those who have called for legalisation.

"We have enough hassles with smokes and alcohol without inflicting a third problem on society."

Officials' Opposition

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 6-7 Mar 82 p 2

[Article by Brian Hill]

[Excerpt]

MARIJUANA will remain illegal - at least in the foreseeable future.

Two federal Ministers, the Attorney-General, Senator Durack, and the Minister for Health, Mr MacKellar, yesterday rejected a report recommending legalisation of the drug by a committee of the Australian Foundation on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

Senator Durack said his own view and that of the Government was "completely opposed" to any move to legalise marijuana.

Mr MacKellar said he would need "a lot of convincing" before agreeing that the possession and private cultivation of marijuana should be decriminalised.

Their views were echoed by other government MPs and the Victorian Premier, Mr Thompson, who said his Gov-

ernment would vigorously oppose any relaxation of the drug laws.

But the leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Chipp, said he intended to introduce a private member's bill to support the main elements of the committee's report.

Mr David Biles, a committee member and an assistant director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, said yesterday his colleagues on the committee believed that possession, use and home cultivation of marijuana should be legal "just the same as beer" but that all other production, apart from that by the CSIRO, should be banned.

Under the committee's guidelines, which are not an official view of the AFADD, advertising would be restricted and health warnings and age limits would be imposed.

CSO: 5300/7543

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HEROIN CHARGES--A man allegedly found in possession of heroin with a street value of \$700,000 appeared in Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday. Brian Carl Hansen, 34, unemployed, of London Street, Bentleigh, appeared on one charge of trafficking heroin, one charge of possessing heroin and one charge of conspiracy to sell heroin. [Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 Mar 82 p 3]

CSO: 5300/7543

HONG KONG

MARIJUANA USE INCREASING AMONG 'TRENDY' MIDDLE CLASS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Mar 82 p 18

[Article by Stephen Clark]

[Text]

Marijuana is becoming the "in-thing" in Hongkong, but mostly among the "trendy" middle-class, according to a senior police narcotics officer.

Years after the boom in pot-smoking in America and Britain, Hongkong is catching-on — or rather turning-on — to the infamous weed.

And some people are aiming at self-sufficiency, growing their own marijuana plants in their gardens in rural areas or on verandahs of their urban flats.

Marijuana, cannabis, pot, hash, weed — call it what you will — has been evident in Hongkong for years.

But police and customs authorities believe that, as the society here becomes more affluent, more and more people, both European and Chinese, are trying out the drug because it has become "trendy."

Although the police do not see marijuana as a serious threat in Hongkong, compared with the problems caused by heroin, they and the courts still take a serious view of offences involving the drug.

Marijuana is still classified as a dangerous drug, along with heroin, and people found guilty of using, growing, or trafficking in the drug are liable to heavy sentences.

Only last week, two people were each sentenced to two years in prison for the possession of marijuana "for the

purpose of unlawful trafficking."

Earlier this month, customs officials made their biggest haul of marijuana since 1975 when they discovered 16kg of the drug — worth around \$1.6 million on the streets — in unclaimed air cargo at Kai Tak airport.

Officials believed the drug was for local consumption and would have been distributed mainly to Filipinos and Europeans, but also to some Chinese who had been introduced to pot smoking when living or studying abroad.

Hongkong customs officials and police have enjoyed remarkable success recently in their fight against heroin traffickers, with several large seizures pushing up the street price of the drug.

But have the recent seizures resulted in people turning to softer drugs?

Superintendent Keith Tidey, of the Narcotics Bureau, thinks not.

"In my experience, local Chinese people on heroin do not go on to marijuana. They are more likely to pay the extra or go on to methadone (a heroin substitute used to wean addicts off heroin) for maintenance.

"By tradition, drug abuse among the Chinese has involved opium or opium derivatives. They are not traditionally marijuana smokers. That is a Western influence."

It is more of a tradition in

other countries in the region, such as the Philippines or Thailand, where marijuana plants grow naturally.

Supt Tidey said that "casual abuse" of marijuana is on the increase in Hongkong.

It is readily available in certain areas, usually being distributed through night-clubs and discos or at parties.

But, he added, pot smoking is more of a "middle or middle-upper-class" preoccupation.

"A lot of fashionable people smoke it because it is the trendy thing to do.

"It is mostly used by expatriates or English-speaking Chinese who mix a lot with the American or European contingents."

After the big marijuana haul this month, one customs officer said: "This soft drug is mainly for more well-off people for use at wild parties."

But he thought that the increasing Filipino population here might also have added to a growing demand for the drug.

Supt Tidey said the age group of most of Hongkong's marijuana users was "late teens to mid-thirties." The drug still has a lot of social attraction, he added, for many "ageing teenagers of around 30" who perhaps first started using marijuana in Europe or America in the late 1960s or 1970s.

"Some people are no doubt trying to grow their own in their gardens or even on the verandahs of their urban flats. But there is no indication of any large-scale commercial growing of marijuana in Hongkong.

"The marijuana that is grown here in bits and pieces is generally for the grower's own consumption."

The use of marijuana as

an intoxicant has raised various medical and social questions, many of which are under continuing scientific investigation.

There has already been a great deal of conflicting evidence from many different studies about the long-term physical effects on the body from persistent use of marijuana.

Such use does not, however, make a person physically dependent, nor does the regular user suffer extreme physical discomfort upon withdrawal such as that associated with the use of opiates.

But Supt Tidey pointed out that for many heroin addicts, marijuana was an early step on the road to drug abuse.

"There is no doubt that a lot of people go on from marijuana to harder drugs," he said.

"For that very reason it is still considered a dangerous drug."

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in or the manufacture of "dangerous drugs" carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and/or a \$5 million fine.

Possession of dangerous drugs for "unlawful trafficking" carries the same penalty, while the maximum penalty for possessing dangerous drugs for personal consumption is three years and/or a \$10,000 fine.

The maximum penalty for cultivation of cannabis plants is 15 years in prison and/or a fine of \$100,000.

A legal source said that, although the courts here still take a firm stand on offences involving marijuana, "the judiciary is not stupid."

He added: "In England and, in my view, here too, the courts tend to take a lesser

view of such offences compared with offences involving heroin or opium.

"Although the maximum penalty is high, the range of activities covered by the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance is so wide that a clear distinction has to be drawn regarding the relative seriousness of different offences."

Supt Tidey agreed that sentences tended to reflect that the courts took a lesser view of marijuana offences.

"Addiction to heroin is obviously much more serious than persistent use of marijuana," he said.

But, he added, there was no indication of any relaxation of the legislation regarding the use of marijuana in the foreseeable future.

This was confirmed by a spokesman for the Legal Department who said there was "absolutely nothing in the pipeline" on this matter.

On Thursday last week, at Victoria District Court, Judge Wong sentenced a couple to two years' imprisonment each after they were found guilty of possessing dangerous drugs (1,122.10 grams of cannabis) for unlawful trafficking.

The couple, both in their 30s and living in Bowen Road, Mid-Levels, also received other lesser prison sentences to run concurrently for various lesser drug offences.

Supt Tidey said that marijuana is a problem in Hongkong "simply because it's here."

But, he added: "It's not a serious problem for the community as a whole in the same way as heroin.

"Pot smoking is more of a trend that's hit Hongkong rather late. It may increase for a while, but it won't reach the stages it reached in the States and Britain 10 to 15 years ago."

CSO: 5320/9125

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS JAILED--Two men were yesterday sentenced to jail in the High Court for dangerous drugs offences. Sentencing Hui Wing-cheong (32), a clerk, to 18 years and Sze Pui-chau (30), a businessman, to 15 years, Mr Commissioner Davies said the case was one of the most serious yet to come before the courts. The quantity of drugs seized--21.53 kg of heroin base--was said by senior Crown counsel Colin White to be enough to supply Hongkong's addicts for 3-1/2 days. The drugs were worth \$9.5 million. Sze and Hui were found guilty by a jury of possessing the drugs for unlawful trafficking. Hui was also convicted of permitting a warehouse in Tsat Tse Mui Road, North Point, of which he was the tenant, to be used for storage of the drugs. The court had been told that police kept surveillance on the warehouse on the night of August 24. The next morning Sze arrived in a car and removed two paper boxes from the warehouse. He then drove to Shu Kuk Street where he was intercepted by the police who found in the boxes 48 packets of heroin base, each weighing slightly under one pound. Sze told the police that he had been asked by Hui to pick up the boxes at his warehouse. The car used for transporting the drugs had been reported stolen and it bore a false registration plate. On August 29, Hui surrendered himself to the police. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Mar 82 p 24]

THAI COURIER SENTENCED--A Thai woman who tried to smuggle \$600,000 worth of dangerous drugs into Hongkong by concealing them in a tropical fruit, was yesterday sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Sae Lim Siamhiang (35) pleaded guilty before Mr Justice Barnes in the High Court to possessing 1.344 kilos of heroin mixture for unlawful trafficking. Crown counsel G.A. Andree-Wiltens said Siamhiang arrived from Bangkok on September 8 and appeared to be nervous and ill at ease when she took her luggage, which included a plastic carrier containing some rambutans, to customs for inspection. Customs officers examined the fruit and found some of them had been hollowed out, small packets of dangerous drugs inserted into them and then stitched back together with fine red cotton thread. Siamhiang admitted that she knew the fruit contained dangerous drugs and that she had been paid \$3,000 for carrying them. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 31 Mar 82 p 18]

CSO: 5320/9125

INDIA

WIDESPREAD DRUG ADDICTION IN PUNJAB SURVEYED

New Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Apr 82 pp 80-83

[Text]

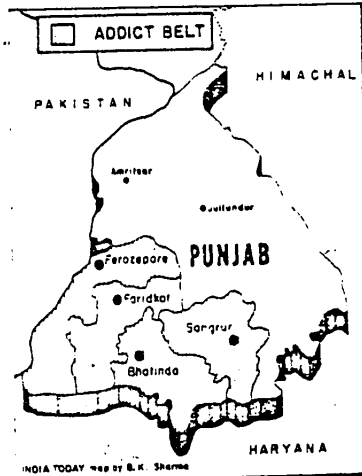
THE emerald green wheat fields stretched for miles, justifying the words on a hoarding at the border—"Punjab, granary of India". Tucked away deep in the interior, uncharted except perhaps on a detailed map of district Bhatinda, lay village Khillan, population: 1,200. But despite the surface tranquillity, Khillan was a village in turmoil. The reason: Khillan has been blitzed by the menace of drug addiction. In the last six months eight men have died due to drugs.

On March 15, when INDIA TODAY visited the village, the men of Khillan were mourning the death of yet another victim. Under the influence of a tablet locally known as *sau numbri* (number 100) the man had fallen into a sewer and, being too drugged to lift his head out of the water, had drowned.

Villagers call the drug *sau numbri* because that weight—100 milligrams—is stamped on the tablet. The actual drug may be either sovenal or seconal, both barbiturates. Many other types of intoxicating synthetic drugs are also sold—some of them morphine-based, others are amphetamines or the methaqualone-based Mandrax, now illegally manufactured and stamped "Bx" or "Sx". These drugs are comparatively recent additions to the traditionally used, plant-derived drugs such as poppy-husk, opium, hashish, marijuana and *dhatura*.

Technically Accidental: The village chowkidar reported the death in the tehsil headquarters at Mansa and it was entered in the register as "death by accident". The entry was technically correct and the authorities were content to leave it at that. The eighth victim, who died in the last week of January, had already caused enough complications. Then it had been unavoidably necessary to enter the cause of death as drug overdose which called for police action. The

local supplier, Mahinder Singh, the priest of the village gurudwara (Sikh Temple) was arrested and tablets were recovered from their hiding place—allegedly, according to the villagers, under the cloth covering the holy book in the gurudwara. But two months after the incident Mahinder Singh was back in Khillan where he also functions as a *vaid*



(traditional doctor). (The nearest health centre is three km away.) When INDIA TODAY met him in his room adjacent to the gurudwara, medicine bottles still cluttered the shelves. He hesitated to answer any direct question. "I am here to help others," he said.

In another village, Bangi, 25 km from Bhatinda, drug-related deaths have reached epidemic proportions—28 in the last year alone. Said a resident, Sajjan Singh, an ex-Indian National Army havildar, "It's sad to see young men die because of these *damngolis*." In yet another village near the

Punjab-Haryana border, Nikki, an eight-year-old girl had died under the influence of drugs. As an infant, her ever-busy mother frequently gave her opium to keep her quiet and she simply grew up with the habit. Some time ago her 15-year-old brother, hooked on *sau numbri*, introduced her to the tablets. On the day of her death she had wandered into the courtyard of her house where two buffaloes were fighting and was caught between them, suffering a massive blow to the head. She was carried into the house still alive but to relieve the pain her family gave her more tablets and she died. The 7,000 inhabitants of her village were stunned but even this tragedy did not persuade her brother to kick the habit—he simply can't.

Unrecorded: Nikki's death was not recorded as a drug-related death and there would be many other such cases whose full circumstances will never be entered in any official register. As a result, neither the state nor the Central Government views the problem of rural drug abuse seriously. The official attitude is "it can't happen here". But several studies over the past five years reveal that the threat is not only real but growing. Studies by Dr Divendra Mohan of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and Dr Gurmeet Singh of Medical College, Patiala, have probed the consumption patterns of alcohol, opium, barbiturates and cannabis in the region.

Among the 12 districts of Punjab, the districts Sangrur, Bhatinda, Faridkot and Ferozpur are known as the "addiction belt". In Dr Gurmeet Singh's 1977 study he noted that although Punjab had one of the lowest crime rates—84.5 per 10,000 population as compared to the all-India average of 17.3—it recorded 7,580 offences under the Opium Act, approximately 70 per cent of the total offences in the entire country. His survey showed that 30 per cent of the population studied used drugs for non-medical purposes.

The problem is increasing. "The use of intoxicants has increased by 100 per cent in the last decade," he said. What has Singh gravely worried is the increased use of barbiturates. "Barbiturates are a cheap compound (30 paise per tablet as compared to Rs 5 to 10 for a bottle of country liquor) and with the rising cost of opium, barbiturates are likely to replace both those intoxicants. Even now people call the tablets *sukki sharrab* (dry liquor)." He is also starting to get cases of people addicted to injected drugs, chiefly pethadine and morphine. "We know Iran experienced a shift from opium to heroin. If heroin were available here they would take it

but, thank God, I haven't seen heroin addicts yet."

THE problem is increasing," confirms Bhatinda Senior Superintendent of Police G.S. Bhullar. The number of cases he has been able to register are indicative of the amount of drug-running in the area. Last year 1,286 drug carriers were arrested and for 1982 his tally has already reached 255. This he admits is only a fraction of what is going on. "With only 20 policemen for every unit of about 50 villages how close a watch can they keep?" he asks. According to Bhullar, drugs come into Punjab from three sides: Nepal, Pakistan and Rajasthan. Although heroin has been intercepted coming from Pakistan it is not meant for the local market—at least not so far.

As Bhullar sees it, the crux of the problem is the mushrooming number of registered medical practitioners (RMPs). Explained Dr Raj Kumar Singla, past president of the Punjab Medical Association who practices in Bhatinda: "These RMPs have usually worked with real doctors for a few months learning how to give injections and acquiring a rudimentary knowledge of drugs. They get themselves certified as RMPs and then go open their own 'dispensaries' in the villages. They are quacks and selling these drugs is their major source of profit."

To make an even bigger profit off the trade the drug peddlars adulterate their wares. Said J.R. Gupta, a small-town chemist, "The suppliers have started to adulterate and duplicate all forms of drugs and even opium." Bournvita's dark-brown colour makes it the ideal additive to stretch opium and an imitation opium is made by mixing strychnine (a deadly poison) and barbiturates into a base of burnt jaggery. "What we sold to kill rats is now being used to kill people," he said.

The fake opium presents another problem—as the police commented, "How can the fellow selling poisoned jaggery be arrested under the Opium Act?" The samples INDIA TODAY collected from the area for laboratory analysis proved the suspicion of adulteration: the opium was only 50 per cent pure; the two types of tablets known as "Bx" and "white escort" contained morphine and the tablet marked "seconal" was just chalk. But the stuff was cheap: 10 grams of opium cost Rs 20 and 15 tablets were purchased for Rs 5, also indicating the easy availability of drugs.

Pattern Of Use: Villagers described the prevalent patterns of use. A typical opium addict makes 30 small pills from 10 grams of

opium which lasts him for a month. Opium is commonly taken in the evening sitting with other men at neighbourhood gathering spots. Consumption occurs in a social context and most opium addicts belonged to the relatively better-off sections of village society. Consumption increases during the strenuous harvesting and tilling seasons. Villagers said men could work for up to 14 hours at a stretch without feeling hunger, pain or fatigue. Their account conformed to Dr Gurmeet Singh's findings which state: "It appears that till such time as mechanised farming becomes a reality opium is a necessary evil and is the price being paid by farmers for earning Punjab the distinction of being called the granary of India."

Barbiturates showed a different pattern of use. Villagers described these men as

A Lifelong Habit

TO PRESENT the human face of Punjab's drug problem INDIA TODAY interviewed several addicts in Bhatinda district. Their comments reveal what drugs cost these individuals in terms of their health, productivity, and social relationships.

Raj Inder Singh, alias Baba, 60, of village Ghudda supports a family of seven from his 10 acres. "Twenty-five years ago I started taking opium. But then opium cultivation and sale was banned and the stuff became more expensive so I switched to the tablets." His dose is now around 10 barbiturate tablets per day. He is careful to feed his livestock before taking the pills; otherwise he says under the effect of drugs he forgets.

Jarnail Singh, alias Zailder, 45, also of Ghudda, was a rich farmer with 40 acres but childless. He started taking poppy husk when he was 15, then graduated to opium and finally barbiturates. As a result of one drug binge he had to sell off a major portion of his property. Befuddled by drugs, he approached a money-lender for Rs 200 and was made to sign on a blank paper. When he sobered up, his creditor confronted him with a

Limited Success

DESPITE the international community's efforts to date, drug abuse throughout most of the

burdens on their families. Men under the influence of synthetic drugs were easily identifiable by their inability to walk or even stand straight. They are said to take several tablets in the evening, sleep until noon the next day and then they require another tablet when they get up to steady their nerves.

The three areas INDIA TODAY visited constitute only a microscopic part of a problem prevalent in the entire state of Punjab. Earlier studies have clearly shown that the incidence of drug dependence is related to drug availability. Stringent action to control the problem is necessary and quickly. Said Dr Mohan: "If the Government does not act now, by the year 2000 drug consumption will have reached critical proportions. It takes 20 years for any such problem to become visible."

document recording a loan of Rs 5,000 with Rs 1,500 as principal on it. His family despairs over his habit but "they have given up hope of reforming me."

Gurbachan Singh, 48, of village Bangi is a small farmer with three acres and a family of six. "When I was young I could yoke my camel and plough the land even when I was drunk--sober, I could lift the camel," he says. Today, he admits thirty years of drug-taking have ruined his health. He takes 75 grams of poppy husk daily plus a dose of opium or barbiturates if he can afford them.

Hakam Singh, 35, of village Bangi, started taking drugs when he was 12. Presently he needs 75 grams of poppy husk and five tablets every day. He has already sold off his four-acre share of the family property. He is not working and since he has no land of his own now and his reputation as a drug-addict is well-known the family is unable to get him married. When interviewed he thought this reporter would have influence to get him a "licence" to get tablets. "Please ask them to let me have 20 tablets a day," he said.

world has not decreased. On the contrary, it has spread and the situation continues to deteriorate. Of particular concern is

that the victims include adolescents and even children.

Geographically, more and more countries are afflicted, both developing and developed. Drugs of greater potency are widely available and consumed in more hazardous ways. These were some of the conclusions made by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in Vienna last month. Paul Reuter, president of INSB states that the situation has never been more complex or more serious. The estimated three-fold increase in illicit production of opium in 1981 might well exceed 600 tonnes compared to the 200 tonnes produced in 1980. This adds a new dimension to the growing problem. Individual seizures had risen from 2113 in 1979 to 3635 in 1980. Said narcotic enforcement officials, this "represented only a fraction of the total quantity in circulation." India too has emerged as a transit point. INDIA TODAY's earlier investigation (May 1-15, 81) brought out that point. Still Indian government officials are not willing to view the problem seriously. Even when illegal drug manufacturers or smugglers are caught and convicted the punishments are too light to act as deterrents.

Heroin: Across the border in

Pakistan, illicit traffic in morphine sulphate tablets manufactured in Pakistan had begun to surface. An even more ominous development is the illicit manufacture of high-purity heroin within the country with the mushrooming of heroin labs. Most of the heroin is destined for the West European and US markets. Narcotic enforcement agencies and experts viewed the new trend as a serious threat to the prospective Indian urban and rural markets. Within Pakistan, diversion of psychotropics substances from licit channels is beginning to find its way to new consumers. The main reason for the spread is ineffective control by the Pakistan authorities of the distribution networks of licit wholesalers and retailers of medicaments. The Pakistan phenomenon is slowly being duplicated in the Indian markets, both in rural and urban centres.

It is becoming obvious that serious drug control measures will have to be adopted requiring renewed awareness, vigilance and coordinated action. The INSB, trying to mobilise world governments to take part in a coordinated drug control measures, is making efforts to convince the United Nations to declare an International Year Against Drug Abuse. So far they have not succeeded.

CSO: 5300/5717

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

DANISH CHARAS SMUGGLERS ARRESTED--LAHORE, April 4--Some 13 kilograms of charas worth Rs. 15 lakh has been recovered from two Danish citizens at the Lahore Airport. Both the culprits were arrested. The arrested persons were Mr. Frier, Passport No. P. 3956993 and Mr. Kimbir kjar, passport number P 4281779 they had arrived from Peshawar on Friday night. They wanted to go to India by air. When the Lahore Airport Customs checked their luggage they found two attache cases extra-heavy. On thorough checking in the false bottom they found 13 kilograms of the contraband, both the persons were taken into custody. A couple of days earlier, three Danish citizens, also planning to go to Delhi, were checked and 15 kilograms charas was recovered from their attache cases. They were also under arrest. The Assistant Collector, Lahore Airport, said that he suspected that there was a gang behind them and investigations were in progress. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 82 p 10]

CSO: 5300/5715

THAILAND

KHUN SA SEEKS NEGOTIATIONS WITH RTG

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 16 Mar 82 p 5

[Article by Thongprai Phansaeng: Negotiating with Khun Sa, heed the lesson of the Guomindang"]

[Text] News from various reliable sources confirms that at present "Khun Sa" is trying his best to negotiate with the Thai Government, stipulating that he will place his troops under the Thai army. In addition, he has offered to help enforce all of the government's suppression policies.

In this attempt Khun Sa has not only contacted officials from all the various sectors of the government; he also has asked the director of the Department of Public Relations to inform the king.

Khun Sa's past record--not to be overlooked

Khun Sa's S.U.A. movement was first established with the intention of being an organ of national liberation. However, following the raid on Banhintaek, Khun Sa's stronghold within Thai territory, our officials found a great number of weapons and accessories for producing heroin. Our officials never found, and Khun Sa himself has not produced, an official announcement of his ideals for national liberation.

The over 10 tons of weapons, war materiel, and rations which the inspecting Thai officials found could not have been for national liberation. Rather, a more important factor in their being there is protection for the transport of opium and the production of heroin.

Khun Sa's image all over the world is not of a revolutionary, but of a "heroin king."

Not only that. Khun Sa and his troops have also violated many Thia laws.

An obvious example is during the battle at Banhintaek Khun Sa's troops killed or wounded 50 Thai officials. Besides that they used their troops and weapons to attack police stations, causing damage and killing a number of Thai officials and citizens.

Although "Khun Sa" is trying to show himself to be a politician or a revolutionary, the fact that cannot be denied is that he is a criminal whose hands are wet with the blood of the Thai people and a ringleader in the distribution of heroin, which destroys Thai people and people of the world in the most coldblooded and merciless way.

The Thai Government should not forget the lesson of the "Guomindang"

Guomindang troops or Division 93 retreated from China and Burma after the victory of the Communist Party over the Guomindang was complete in October, 1949. The Guomindang's claim was the same as Khun Sa's, that in national liberation—to liberate China from the Communists. This principle caused the U.S., through the C.I.A., to extend its hand and become involved in the strategy for containing China, which was the policy of the U.S. in the period following World War II.

The executor of the U.S. policy in Thailand at first was the police department under Police General Phau Siyanon. The unit of the C.I.A. that he was associated with was the American Sea Supply Company, Ltd.

In any case, the main activity of the Guomindang was not the struggle for the liberation of China, but the sale and cultivation of opium. The police department and a group of Thai generals at the time joined the Guomindang in the opium trade and gradually enriched themselves.

In the period following this, even though military headquarters 04 was set up by a resolution of the cabinet in 1970 to handle matters concerning the Guomindang and the reliance on the Guomindang to suppress Communists in the north, the Guomindang retained intact the freedom to cultivate and sell opium, and also developed into heroin producers.

Even today there is no evidence that the Guomindang is going to stop producing narcotics, based in Thai territory and with the status of Thai citizens.

We must disarm them and rescind all privileges

In the case of the Guomindang, with hopes of using those forces to suppress Thai Communists (which should, rather, be a matter concerning Thailand itself), the Thai government allowed the Guomindang to retain its troops and helped to arm them. On the one hand, the Guomindang became involved in suppressing communism, but, on the other, it used those privileges to its own advantage in producing and selling narcotics.

There was criticism for a long time that the Guomindang was able to retain those privileges because certain important generals joined with them and supported them behind the scenes, and through contacts and pressure got them Thai citizenship. Then that group set up its own "independent state" and has given Thailand a bad reputation because of the immense amount of narcotics coming through Thailand.

We should be well aware of the loopholes, and that the stipulation that the government use this small national force as a "buffer" and a tool in suppressing Thai Communists allows some military officers to use this type of political loophole to their own advantage. The news that some political parties at present receive financial support from sellers of narcotics who cause suffering all over the world is not a blown-up, baseless rumor at all, but has no little truth to it.

In the case of "Khun Sa," there are two points to consider carefully.

The first point is: what are we going to do with these troops, among which very little trace remains of national liberation? If they are only troops who guard opium and narcotics in the fields, with such a political foundation, the most they can be is "hired fighters." If this bunch were to be used to kill Communists what guarantee would we have that these "hired soldiers" wouldn't stir up new incidents, causing trouble among the Thai people?

The second point is Khun Sa maintains persistently that even if he were killed, narcotics would not disappear from the world. This strongly indicates that the sale of narcotics is his economic lifeline and that of this region of the world. If we accept Khun Sa, what guarantee would the Thai people have that his people will not continue to sell narcotics?

And this time the selling would not be done in the capacity of foreign troops, but in the capacity of "independent" troops living under the Thai flag. Won't it turn out that the Thai government is supporting a "narcotics king" and allowing him to use Thai land as a base for sending out narcotics which will cause troubles all over the world?

An old Thai saying quite rightly says: "Associating with hoodlums leads to crime; associating with wisemen leads to benefit."

Dealings with evil people who sell narcotics, no matter whether it is Khun Sa or others from the past, does not improve the national reputation. High-ranking generals who have in the past been close to such narcotics sellers, even those in high political positions, will be unable to avoid criticism, and eventually their intestines will be pulled out and stretched longer and longer.

Likewise, in the case of Khun Sa the government should not be so soft as to hope that these people will serve as "buffers" with Burma or hope to use them to suppress Thai Communists. These are short short-term results. But the long-term results of drug addiction are much more severe.

The correct solution is to push them out of the country or, if they still try to enter, to disarm them. And anyone who commits a crime should be punished in accordance with the law, or if they disobey international law, they should be extradited to the country involved in the incident.

Even if the cobra is weak and tired, we shouldn't feed it, because one day it will turn around and bite the master who raised it, with no thought of gratitude for the food and water it was given.

The fable of "The Farmer and the Cobra" is not just to fool children. There is truth to it, particularly in the case of "Khun Sa!"

9937

CSO: 5300/5698

THAILAND

COLUMNIST: HEROIN REFINING CONTINUES DESPITE BAN HIN TAEK

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 23 Mar 82 p 5

[Article by "Tamolo": "The Mountain Wind Blows the Dream Away"]

[Text] First please let me give you a brief news item to read.

On 11 March of this year P.P.S. [Narcotics Suppression?] and Customs officials of Chiangdao, Chiangmai province, inspected two cars and found 172 liters of chemicals used in processing heroin number 4, valued at 900,000 baht.

Three suspects were captured, two of whom were Master Sergeant and Sergeant in the Inspection and Production Force of the Defense Energy Department. The other was a civilian. When interrogated the three men confessed that they were taking the chemicals to a heroin factory at Doilang, which is the former base of Division 93 of the Guomindang.

Reader, if the chemicals to convert opium into heroin cost 900,000 baht, how many millions worth of heroin will they make?

In any case, it shows that Khun Sa, the big producer and seller that the government has made an all-out effort to capture, is only part of the operation which produces and sells heroin in the Golden Triangle region. The raid on Khun Sa was only "effective" to a point, for a large portion of the production and sale is still going on, having become an industry or an enterprise, and production may be speeded up in order to compensate for Khun Sa's portion.

I would like you, reader, to observe that it was the "former Division 93 of the Guomindang" that was named by the suspects as the owner of the 900,000 baht worth of chemicals to be made into heroin.

The former Division 93 is a large-scale producer and seller just like Khun Sa.

But there are others covering up by giving interviews to the news media saying that the former Division 93 has not been involved in opium or heroin production and sales.

It is impossible for anyone living in the vicinity of the Golden Triangle not to be involved in the production and sale of opium or heroin.

The role for Division 93 of the Guomindang is a thing of the past, and today they are just a minority group who live peacefully in Thailand, but the structure still remains, having become a system of unofficial self-government which spends millions.

Planting tea and selling it to merchants at Pratunam in Bangkok brings in little money, and they'd probably have to sell it at a depressed price.

When Division 93 is mentioned some of you may picture old war veterans with old tales of adventure.

In Division 93 today it is true that there are old war veteran generals and soldiers, but there are also their descendants, who are young and strong and becoming a new Division 93, which is more powerful and younger than the Division 93 of approximately 30 years ago.

At present Division 93 still has armed troops, and armed troops may not legally live on the Thai border. Therefore the Thai government does not have to take responsibility. But, in fact, who sits and watches and prevents armed troops from crossing the Thai border?

They come in; they propagate; they pass on the bloodline of Division 93.

There are now Chinese-language schools for the children of Division 93 in the area where Division 93 has settled.

Our Thai children in the good schools of Bangkok cannot compare with these healthy red-cheeked children.

The Chinese children in Bangkok, too, have to go to these schools in order to be able to study in Taiwan later (and Taiwan offers scholarships).

I have read a Thai writer on the Thais in Los Angeles, which he calls Thailand's 73rd province.

Then they must say the same thing in Taiwan, that Division 93 in Chiangrai is a province of Taiwan.

We are very concerned about Vietnamese refugees who escape from camps and come and live in Bangkok as Thais.

But who is concerned about Division 93 coming in and becoming owners of new commercial establishments in Bangkok and Chiangmai?

What is worth thinking about is that 30 years ago Division 93 contained 10,000 people. Today it has become 30,000 (because they don't practice birth control).

In another 30 years they will be 90,000 people.

I don't have the exact figures for the number of people in Division 93 who have settled along the Thai-Burmese border, but in another 30 years there will be problems of the "minority group" of Division 93.

If they mixed and became Thai like the children of the Chinese in Bangkok, there would be no problem.

But in that environment there is no way for them to become Thai (even if they wanted to be).

The danger is that they will be a minority group that is intelligent, well-educated, and armed.

Which all derives from opium.

What the government must do is to get Division 93 to become Thai.

And Division 93 will be able to become Thai when the government succeeds in wiping out opium from the Golden Triangle region.

9937

CSO: 5300/5698

ARGENTINA

DRUG TRAFFICKING INCREASE REPORTED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Mar 82 p 12

[Excerpt] Taking advantage of the opportunity a few days ago in the city of Mar del Plata to gather information about the arrest of several persons who were implicated in drug trafficking--especially of Moroccan hashish and marihuana--and of the fact that these drugs were to be shipped to Spain for sale during the forthcoming world soccer championship, it became known that this action was part of a wide investigation which personnel of units of the Federal Police were undertaking in said vacation spot, Cordoba and the Federal Capital. It has now been reported that in that interior province, two international traffickers have been arrested, who were seized not only with hashish and marihuana but cocaine, heroin and LSD, the latter two being of very restricted circulation and use because of their very high cost.

In the case of the arrests in Cordoba, mention has again been made of the joint investigations referred to above, and apparently, since there is no official concrete report, it would have to do with the drug which was to be carried to Spain for the soccer games.

These two facts demonstrate a great increase in international trafficking in our country since the first report given by the Federal Police of Mar del Plata said that the drug came from Morocco, passed through Brazil, Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, to leave for Bolivia, and then to Europe. Now with the second case, it concerns drugs brought from Spain and distributed from our country to different places.

To this panorama, we must add the events in Salta, which resulted in one death, 10 arrests and an important seizure of drugs.

In Cordoba

Personnel from Federal Police arrested an international drug trafficker, as part of a joint action, in the cities of Mar del Plata and Buenos Aires, where a total of 10 people were arrested.

According to reports, the man arrested in the capital is Antonio Werd Ruiz, a 24-year-old Spanish citizen, singled out as the ringleader of an

important international group of drug traffickers. Posing as a businessman in textiles, it is known, for example, that he made several trips at the beginning of this year to Spain, returning to this country with a quantity of drugs which he would have distributed to certain places, in our country and abroad. On being arrested, he was found to be in possession of 300 grams of pure hashish.

Also arrested was Patricia Elizabeth Lanfuerin Garcia, a 21-year-old Argentine, a native of Mar del Plata, who lived with the trafficker Werd Ruiz since the end of 1981.

It so happened that up to now, in the actions undertaken in Cordoba, Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata, large quantities of hashish, marihuana, cocaine, LSD and heroin were seized.

Werd Ruiz and Lanfuerin de Garcia were brought from Cordoba to this capital and remained at the disposition of the Judge of the Court, Dr Silvia Hardoy de Garcia.

A Death in Salta

Members of the Salta Aguarry Group of the National Gendarmery seized contraband drugs and in an armed confrontation shot down one of those involved, in addition to arresting various people responsible for the crime.

The events began Tuesday at dawn when the authorities stopped a vehicle driven by Luis Hector Ruiz on national highway 35 about 30 kilometers south of Salvador Mazza, Salta, in an area on the Argentine-Bolivian border. As a result of discrepancies in the account of Hector Ruiz, the owner of the vehicle, Miguel Paniagua, a Bolivian, was later arrested in Tarragal and it was confirmed that both, with others involved, had brought bales of coca leaves into Argentina.

At the same time the other personnel of the same group became suspicious when they saw a moving automobile carrying three men who were ordered to stop.

Their driver stepped on the gas and tried to run down the security personnel and an exchange of fire ensued in which one of the passengers was shot.

9678
CSO: 5300/2243

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA BOAT SEIZURE--Three Cuban Americans, a drug boat and a salvaged boat were brought to Nassau by the Bahamas Defence Force Tuesday. The 34-foot Criscraft "Miss Johanna" was picked up a mile east of Riding Rock. On board were 70 bales of marijuana, varying in weight from 50 to 75 lbs. On board "Miss Johanna" were Wilfredo Onoze, 48, of Hialeah, Fla, Luis Hernanel, 39, also of Hialeah, and Aracerio Moreton, 43, of Miami. During the operation, the Defence Force was informed by the US Coast Guard that a boat, "Ramanito" (92125 H F1), was missing. The Defence Force aircraft spotted a sunken boat and passed on the information to HMBS Exuma. The Exuma, assisted by HMBS P31, salvaged the sunken vessel, which turned out to be "Ramanito." The men, boats, and drugs were taken to the Defence Force's Coral Harbour base. [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Mar 82 p 1]

CSO: 5300/7542

BRAZIL

PURE COCAINE, WEAPONS SEIZED IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Mar 82 p 18

[Excerpts] Yesterday the police seized 2.65 kg of pure cocaine. "Enhanced" (mixed with bicarbonate or talcum), the cocaine would have come to 15 kg. Since a gram of this narcotic costs 8,000 cruzeiros on the retail market in Rio de Janeiro, the traffickers, who were also arrested, would have received about 120 million cruzeiros, according to the police.

The arrested traffickers are Joao Candido da Ailva, attorney and former agent of the defunct Vigilance Police, who was expelled from that agency on charges of homicide, Jose Quintino Pereira, aged 57, and his sons Aldo Quintino Barreto, aged 22, and Francisco Jose Pereira, aged 34. The arrested were charged under Articles 12 and 14 of Law No 6,368, for drug trafficking and forming a trafficking ring.

Single Confession

Despite having been sentenced to over 3 years for drug trafficking, Jose Quintino Pereira denied any part in the sale of the seized cocaine, as did his son Francisco Jose and attorney Jose Candido da Silva, who said he had just been working to appeal the sentence against Jose Quintino, but had not been able to locate the trial record, "because it had disappeared," he explained.

Only Aldo Quintino Berreto admitted to having brought the drug from Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul. He had been ordered by "John Doe" to deliver it to Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro, to a person known to him only as "Pedro."

At the attorney's home, the police found three rifles, a .38 caliber revolver and ammunition for these weapons.



Besides the cocaine in powder, rifles and revolvers were found with the traffickers

6362
CSO: 5300/2240

BRAZIL

SAO PAULO POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH INVOLVEMENT WITH TRAFFICKERS

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portugese 16 Mar 82 p 16

[Text] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO)--Carapicuibá police officer Jurandir Gomes Martins, photographed at a party in the company of known drug traffickers, was dismissed yesterday and will testify today at an inquiry presided over by Chief Enos Boeche Junior, magistrate of DEGRAN [Greater Sao Paulo Police Department].

Marcos Antonio da Sousa, recently arrested by the DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order], also made accusations against Jurandir, connecting the police officer with trafficker Hiroito de Moraes Joanides. Hiroito had been a fugitive since last 3 February, when he escaped from the Taboao de Serra prison, but he was captured on Friday in Pinheiros by a Mobile Tactical Unit of the Military Police.

According to the SOI [Intelligence Operations Sector] of the Narcotics Division of the DEIC [State Department of Criminal Investigation], Heroito was second in command of a ring led by Pedro Botelho Franganeilo, owner of Pop's Hotel on Rua Avandava, who has been at large for 8 years. The ring also includes economist Pascoale Nigro, owner of the Casa de Poule bar and cafe on Rua Cesario Mota Junior in Vila Buarque; Eduardo Kahl Issa, "Turquinho," who murdered a woman in the Avenida Nove de Julho tunnel in 1979; and Sergio Costa Araujo, "Sergio Pescoso," who was arrested with marijuana in his possession on 25 February by the DEIC's Robbery Division and handed over to the Narcotics Division, where Chief Carlos Alberto Costa booked him for possession.

Inquiry

The directorate of the DEIC was surprised at the revelations by the SOI regarding the ring, whose members have been trafficking in narcotics for over 18 years. According to a Narcotics Division officer, "they were talking about old names in a new ring."

In police circles it is commented that the "discovery" of the ring may be an attempt to divert the attention of the authorities, since the information came at a time when an inquiry is underway in the magistracy of the DEIC, directed by Chief Dante Mautoni. The inquiry was prompted by revelations by Pascoale Nigro implicating the staff of Chief Ademar Magalhaes Lopes. The economist charged with forming a ring said he had been illegally constrained and tortured

in the SOI. Chief Mautoni has already heard the testimony of five of the complainants against the police.

Another inquiry is being conducted in the magistracy of the Civil Police, since there are also accusations against police working in other departments. There are also accusations in the 9th and 14th criminal jurisdictions of Sao Paulo. Yesterday, a clerk of the SOI worked with the Civil Police Data Bank gathering information requested by various magistracies regarding the accused ring members. Former police officer Dirnei da Costa, arrested with Hiroito, should testify regarding his connections with the trafficker.

According to the SOI, Herioto enjoyed special privileges in the Taboao da Serra prison and frequently left to sell cocaine in a bar called "Pilequinho," near the police building. Chief Jurandir Gomes Martins was in charge of the prison at that time.

Hosmany

Chief Carlos Alberto Costa, responsible for the arrest of plastic surgeon Hosmany Ramos last December, said he was surprised at the reports linking this trafficker with the ring identified by the SOI. According to Costa, despite various investigations of the physician, he never turned up any names of individuals connected with Hosmany in drug trafficking, at least in Sao Paulo.



At a party at the house of "Sergio Pescoco," police officer Jurandir Martins (in dark jacket), talks with Eduardo Issa and Hiroito Joanides (seated)

6362
CSO: 5300/2240

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

COCAINE, ARMS SEIZED--The Military Police yesterday arrested Pedro Ribeiro ("Pedro Velho") and his nephew Luis Carlos Ribeiro Seixas on Morro de Santa Maria with about 1/2 kg of pure cocaine valued at 1.6 million cruzeiros, 1/2 kg of marihuana, weapons, ammunition, ether atomizers, tape recorders and other electronic equipment. Later, accompanied by a team from the Narcotics Division, the Military Police arrested Eneres Lino, who looked after the location where the traffickers stored the merchandise. Eneres is a parolee["preso albergado"] and has already served 5 years of a 9-year prison term. In the Narcotics Division, police commented that the ring was responsible for supplying most of the ether spray cans for carnival as well as for the distribution of drugs in several districts in the Southern Zone. The police now expect to arrest Eneres Lino's son, known as Carlinhos, who they say is also a drug trafficker in Morro de Santa Marta. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Mar 82 p 14] 6362

MARIHUANA SEIZED IN MATO GROSSO--Cuiaba (O GLOBO)--Marco Antonio, superintendent of the Federal Police in Mato Grosso, announced yesterday that marihuana fields had been discovered on two farms near the city of Pedra Preta (250 km from the capital) and that most of the 1,500 kg of seized marihuana had been incinerated. He added that another crop could be discovered within hours, since a team of agents is still searching the jungle in the region, investigating an area where the ground is considered favorable for growing marihuana. The seized marihuana was valued at 30 million cruzeiros. The superintendent noted that he was prohibited by law from releasing the names of the individuals arrested. He also noted that 1,800 kg of marihuana was seized last year in the region, which is under constant surveillance because of the many clandestine marihuana farms. [Text] [Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 82 p 6] 6362

CSO: 5300/2240

COLOMBIA

DETAILS ON RECORD COCAINE SHIPMENT TO U.S.

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 22 Mar 82 p 9-A

[Article by Fabio Castillo, special envoy]

[Text] Medellin, 11 Mar--The Tampa airplane from which the largest cargo of narcotics ever discovered to date was seized completed its Lima-Medellin-Miami itinerary in a single day, but the authorities doubt the possibility that the 1,700 kilograms of the alkaloid could have been placed aboard in the Peruvian capital.

The Tampa airplane HK-2401 arrived at Medellin at 8:30 a.m. from Lima with a cargo of dried fish and left for Miami at 12:35 on a non-stop flight.

On the one hand the customs administration at Medellin expressed surprise at the way in which the authorities in charge of drug traffic control have tried to blame that organization, while on the other hand the army and the judiciary police of the public prosecutor's office maintained a discreet silence about the situation created by the seizure in Miami of cocaine officially valued at some 1 billion dollars.

In Medellin, precisely at the time that the army was carrying out a security operation, the plane was loaded with 180 flower boxes left behind by flight 2600, also Tampa's, two boxes containing various leather items, 425 boxes with products made by the company Cid Industries and Investments of Medellin, apparently where the cocaine was found, and other boxes that contained household articles.

All told there were 631 boxes, several of which had been assessed or had had their contents inspected more than 5 days earlier.

According to different versions circulating yesterday in this capital, Tampa's airplane might be freed today by the American agents in charge of the investigation. The crew, under the command of Cpt Juan Maldonado Gonzalez, arrived at Medellin on Wednesday afternoon, but returned to Miami yesterday.

At Tampa, it was said that no new itinerary had been assigned to Cpt Gonzalez for a week and for this reason it was presumed that he would remain in Miami for at least eight days.

Everywhere in Medellin, the subject of conversation was the million-dollar cocaine cargo discovered by a surprised North American customs guard who examined the boxes when he noticed that they had different markings.

In every small gathering there were all sorts of speculations about the ownership of the cocaine, implicating some alleged mafia members whose names were common knowledge.

The truth is that the authorities questioned by this newspaper said it was improbable that such a quantity of the alkaloid could be gathered in a few days, even though it is known that Lima is one of the principal sources of cocaine in South America. Notwithstanding the above, other sources from the same security agency commented that in four days one could easily gather that much cocaine in Medellin.

The findings published by this newspaper made it clear that the same day that the drug was shipped, an army operation under the command of a lieutenant whose name could not be established took place from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm at Olaya Herrera Airport.

A source at the customs office, who asked that his name be kept secret, said that the airplane HK-2401 was being guarded by the army when it unloaded the fish coming from Lima and that several boxes randomly selected were actually inspected.

The same thing happened when the Tampa Boeing 707 was being loaded.

Tampa asked the interior customs house in Medellin for the services of an assessor for the following day between 7:00 am and 9:00 am. The customs administrator, Hernando Buritica Rojas, chose Luis Fernando Matiz to carry out the inspection of the 425 boxes delivered by Cid Industries and Investments. The other boxes had been in the Tampa warehouse for several days, but they had already been assessed by customs.

It was possible to establish that Cid Industries and Investments made use of an export operation under the so-called Vallejo Plan that in this case consisted of importing already cut cloth from Miami, which was then exported after being made into garments.

Contract 3-426 of the Vallejo Plan served to protect the export of merchandise identified in export registry 0780 as "jackets for men, plain weave, 100 percent polyester" and "women's dresses consisting of skirt and jacket, plain weave, 100 percent polyester." Marlen Pizza M., resident of Medellin, appears as the exporter, but it was not possible to locate her yesterday.

In one of the shipping manifests, 3,839 women's jackets and 1,906 women's dresses packed in 150 cardboard boxes were declared.

The price quoted in the bill was \$31,224.02. The other manifest mentions 5,734 jackets for men and 5,266 men's jackets packed in 275 cardboard boxes. The declared value was \$49,710.

The first shipment was bound for Diversified Apparel Corp, located in Hialeah, Florida. The second one was to be delivered to Oxford Industries, Inc, in Atlanta, Georgia.

The household goods transported by Tampa were the property of Edwin John Sausser, Victor Hugo Martinez, Geo. T. Edwards, Richard Wl. Geer, Peter Berwic and James Campbell. There was also a box containing technical books, the property of Edgar Galindo.

According to the versions known in Colombia by the international agencies, the 1,700 kilograms of cocaine were in 20 cardboard boxes that presumably contained ready-to-wear clothing.

Medellin's customs authorities stated that it is really very difficult for them to control the flow of merchandise because they lack warehouses. For this reason all the cargo shipped by Tampa was stored in this company's warehouse and although customs should protect the merchandise it is apparent that they do not since there is no personnel to be assigned to this job.

In the warehouses merchandise is admitted and is certified but only in reference to the number of items. Later the owner of the merchandise or his customs broker, in this case Panalpina, asks for the appraisal of the merchandise.

The customs administrator chooses the assessor according to the warehouses, and following customs regulations the assessor should inspect 10 percent of the merchandise. The assessment is made at random but that officer has no control over the merchandise, and for this reason the chief of export should accept his findings in good faith.

At the airport customs office there are always six assessors, who are rotated weekly with 12 assessors in the internal customs house.

In this case, the assessor for both shipments from the company Cid was Luis Fernando Matiz.

After the assessing is done, the merchandise remains in the custody of the customs house but in reality it remains under the care of the transport company, because the official institution lacks the mechanisms or resources that guarantee that the merchandise inspected is the same as that shipped.

Neither does customs have the means of locking up the merchandise separately. In spite of the above, regarding the plane's cargo, it was reported that the merchandise was assessed between 7:00 am and 9:00 am. Flight 2401 left Medellin at 12:35 pm.

Certification of the number of boxes, which is what Tampa really limits itself to, was done by Luz Sofia Jimenez, the representative for that company at Olaya Herrera Airport.

The chief of exports from Medellin's customs house issued the shipping orders 0614, 0613 and 0612, but as remarked earlier, this was based on the inspection of the merchandise done by the assessor on duty.

Tampa's lawyer, Gustavo Adolfo Londono, said that the release of the Boeing 707, HK-2401 is expected today after the necessary inquiries are completed, because in his estimation the responsibility of the airline company in this case would be the same as that foisted on a taxi driver who transport a man who is carrying an attache case containing drugs.

As soon as the airplane is returned to us we will consider Tampa exonerated from any responsibility, although there has never been any doubt about the company's freedom of guilt.

Yesterday Olaya Herrera Airport was a real den of detectives. The nation's Office of the Attorney General, the general management of customs, and the DEA assigned investigators who immediately started to ascertain the facts with the intent of determining liability.

9907
CSO: 5300/2246

COLOMBIA

COCAINE LABORATORY, SHIPMENT SEIZED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Mar 82 p 16-A

[Text] One of the most modern and sophisticated laboratories for the manufacture of cocaine with a production capacity of more than 20 kilograms of the alkaloid per night, was discovered and dismantled by officials of the F-2 in a luxurious residence in the extreme northern part of Bogota.

Six Colombians were arrested in the operation, one of whom resides in the United States and the others in various parts of Colombia.

When detectives closed in on the luxurious residence where the laboratory was in operation, they found 15 kilos of high quality cocaine ready to be sent to the black market in the United States.

Along with the cocaine plant, a Mercedes Benz 280 GE camper with license plates FC-9969 was seized, which according to those knowledgeable about automobiles, is the only one in the country and is valued at about 2 and a half million pesos.

The cocaine plant had been in operation for about 2 months in a residence on Carrera 14 at 151-76 in the Cedro Golf neighborhood, and neighbors called it "The Fortress" because of the extensive security and protective measures provided by the owners.

The building is divided into three stories which were utilized to technical advantage by the cocaine manufacturers in the most functional manner imaginable.

On the first level, in one of the kitchens, a type of cellar or storeroom was being used, where basins, large cans, filters, chemical ingredients and packaging materials were stored. On the first patio of this same level, an underground cellar had been built to store the processed drug. The entrance was guarded by a concrete cover which gave the impression of being a septic tank.

The second level was designed to store the most important and most dangerous chemicals, and in order to prevent an explosion or accident, a system of ventilation and air exchange had been devised which prevented the accumulation of explosive gases.

The area for the ovens and the final drying of the product was located on the third floor where there were powerful electric lamps with thermostatic temperature controls to guarantee a high level of purity for the drug. Also on this third level, were the bedrooms for the group of men, furnished with all types of conveniences.

On another patio, detectives discovered a type of "silo", also designed for the storage of already processed cocaine.

The men arrested in the operation were identified as Carlos Orlando Leal Pardo, born in Garagoa (Boyaca); Jose Alvaro Alonso Vargas, who was the "chemist" or "cook" of the organization; Jose Octavio Mejia Duque, a native of Manizales, who appeared to be the owner of the residence; Carlos Alberto Alzate Arcila, of Medellin; Alonso Alfonso Vargas, a native of Granada (Boyaca) and Hernan Higuera Santamaria, from Bogota.

The first of those listed above, Leal Pardo, lived in the United States and served as a contact there for the distribution and sale of the drug to the North American Mafia.

The confiscated drugs and the vehicle are worth more than 20 million pesos.



The six men arrested in the sophisticated laboratory discovered yesterday in the Cedro Golf neighborhood, were identified by the F-2 as Carlos Orlando Leal Pardo, Jose Alvaro Alonso Vargas, (chemist); Jose Octavio Mejia Duque, who is the owner; Carlos Arturo Alzate Arcila, Alonso Alfonso Vargas and Hernando Higuera Santamaria.

9787
CSO: 5300/2222

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE PLANTATIONS, LABORATORIES UNCOVERED--In operations carried out in the eastern plains region, the police today discovered two large cocaine plantations and two cocaine processing laboratories. The cocaine plantations and laboratories were found near San Jose Del Guaviare. There were no arrests. [PA170111 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Apr 82]

CSO: 5300/2270

MEXICO

COLOMBIA-U.S. COCAINE SHIPMENT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR 27 Mar 82 p 33-A

[Article by Enrique Rivas Ornelas]

[Text] Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, 26 March--The Judicial Police confiscated 100 million pesos worth of cocaine when it detained a gang of drug traffickers who were bringing the drug from Bogota, Colombia for shipment to the United States.

Carlos Aguilar Garza, coordinator of the Federal Public Ministry's agencies, reported that 10 drug traffickers were arrested last Monday in Monterrey, after capturing Orlando Granados Barrera and Hugo Luis Hoyos Fernandez, the Colombians who were carrying 60 packages of cocaine.

The drug was brought into the country in small rubber pouches that were swallowed by several people contracted for the purpose. These small packets were expelled by the "human carriers" in the Nuevo Leon capital.

Jackeline Jackman Canabati, an American, and Maritza Perez Huerta, a Spaniard, who bought part of the cocaine brought into the country from Granados Barrera, were also arrested.

Also detained in the mountainous capital at midweek was Alfredo Jackaman Botarzzi of the United States, who was in the city to help the Colombians get into Laredo, Texas.

Ramon Guillermo Calzado Bejar, the Public Ministry agent in Monterrey, reported that he asked the agents of the judiciary policy in that city to pursue their investigation, and they succeeded in arresting Diego Alfonso Diaz Dinazco and Carlos Rivero Betancourt, the Colombian leaders of the gang.

Aguilar Garza said that Alma Gloria Roldan Robles, Carlos Emilio Jackaman and Hernando Echevarri Molina were arrested later. One of the members of the gang, Carlos Rivero Betancourt, is apparently being sought by the Miami police for two murders, he added.

9805

CSO: 5300/2262

MEXICO

SIX MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN MICHOACAN

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Jan 82 p 35-A

[Article by Rafael Medina]

[Text] After exchanging shots on two occasions with drug traffickers in the state of Michoacan, agents from the Federal Judicial Police captured six of the principal distributors of marihuana in the state. The capture of Jesus Sanchez Silva and Maximiliano Munguia Mendoza, in a police post of the Federal Judicial Police, enabled agents to break up this gang which even has ranches to hide the drugs. Upon being interrogated, Sanchez Silva and Munguia Mendoza revealed that in a pass near Uruapan called Espiritu Santo, a sample of marihuana would be delivered to potential buyers, so the agents turned up at that place with negative results; however, they then said that the meeting would take place at the "El Salitrillo" ranch in Arteaga. When the federal agents arrived there, they were greeted by shots fired by the drug traffickers and after the confrontation the gang fled toward the mountains. The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic announced that there, they were able to capture Tomas Barragan Espino and Samuel Garcia Mendoza, who were hiding 20 bags of marihuana in some shacks and a sheep truck to transport the drugs. Upon continuing with the investigations, the federal agents found out that at the "Las Casas" ranch, near Apatzingan, there were more drugs, so they moved to that place. Upon arriving, they were greeted by shots fired by the criminal gang who, for the second time, managed to flee. At "Las Casas" they managed to arrest Abraham Ortiz Alcala and Jose Maria Suarez. The Federal Judicial Police, after initiating the pursuit of the fugitive drug traffickers, requested the collaboration of the army before the number of mafiosos and the arms they were using. The six arrested men were placed at the disposal of the agency of the Federal Public Ministry of the area.

8956

CSO: 5300/2147

MEXICO

BRIEFS

TWO DRUG LABORATORIES UNCOVERED--Monterrey, N.L., 19 Jan--Agents from the VII military zone and from the Federal Judicial Police and the state seized drugs worth 15 million pesos in two clandestine laboratories and detained six drug dealers. The two clandestine laboratories where amphetamines were being made were located thanks to an anonymous call in the suburb of Unidad Modelo and the subdivision Cerro de la Silla, according to Jesus Torres Espejo, the director of the state judicial. Those arrested were: Brand and Ira Brochardo, Charles Brown, Jorge Luis Beltran, Luis Ruben Orozco Casanova and Genovevo Rivera Camargo. The first three are sought by the FBI and Interpol. Torres Espejo indicated that at the moment when they burst into one of the laboratories, the drug dealers offered resistance but they were subdued. In addition to the amphetamines, they confiscated arms and modern equipment to process drugs which were then sold in Miami, Florida. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Jan 82 p 32-A] 8956

MUCH SOUGHT DEALER ARRESTED--After a prolonged investigation by the Federal Judicial Police, one of the most sought-after drug dealers was arrested yesterday without the federal agents firing a shot. He was surprised while selling psychotropic drugs to addicts of Culiacan, Sinaloa. Andrea Gilberto Reyes Cardenas who was famous through the northeast of the country, where he distributed toxic tablets to students and peasants of all ages. The agents of the PJJ [Federal Judicial Police] had been following his trail for several months but it was not possible to arrest him without his being in possession of drugs, since they would be lacking a motive, the proof that he was a drug dealer. Yesterday, he was surprised by 480 flasks. When he was arrested, Reyes Cardenas had in his possession 29,280 tablets of Pludex Forte, narcotics of foreign origin, although with national packaging, and 250,000 tablets of national manufacture. The arrested man said that he was selling them at \$1.50 per tablet, especially on the U.S. border and in Guadalajara, Culiacan and Mazatlan. Likewise, in other actions, the Federal Judicial Police arrested drug dealers Antonio Galindo Angulo, Ana Elsa Acosta Acosta, Monica Acosta Ruelas and Onofre Aguilar Lopez, who had formed a gang to distribute heroin in the city of Tijuana, Baja California Norte. After an investigation which took several months, the agents arrested them while they had in their possession two packages with 1.2 kg of heroin of very good quality, of the kind which gives several "cuts," as Gen Raul Mendiola Zerecero, the head of the federal corporation informed us. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 20 Jan p 10-A] 8956

SINALOA POPPY FIELDS BURNED--Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 24 Mar--One-hundred and sixty poppy plants were destroyed during the past 5 days by federal agents in the mountainous region of the southern part of the state. The drug was valued at approximately 50 million pesos. The commanding officer, Dionisio Sanchez Lopez, reported that the plants were ready to be harvested, and he indicated that there were several arrests, but he refused to divulge the names so as not to hamper the investigation. He was certain that those arrested have contacts with important groups of drug dealers in the southeastern part of the United States. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Mar 82 p 8-D] 9787

DRUG SEIZURES, ARRESTS--The office of the attorney general of the republic reports today that 140 kg of marihuana, 2 kg of opium and various amounts of cocaine and heroin have been seized, and that 35 persons involved in the traffic of drugs have been arrested. These actions were possible as a result of stepped up vigilance by the Federal Judicial Police, which conducted them both in the federal district and in the interior of the country. Even though the total amount of the drugs seized was not indicated, the office of the attorney general also announced that weapons of various calibers had been taken from those arrested. Investigations are continuing to proceed with the corresponding criminal action against the drug traffickers. [Text] [FL161532 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0251 GMT 16 Apr 82]

CSO: 5300/2271

IRAN

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE IN TEHRAN--Tehran and Shahr-e Kord antidrug squad members have seized 26.119 kg of hashish, 10.753 kg of opium and 3.866 kg of opium juice from 69 drug smugglers. They also seized 1.524 kg of opium from Ruhollah Khorsandi, who was mailing the opium to his son in the United States. [GF251226 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 82 p 4]

HASHISH, OPIUM SEIZURE--Tehran antidrug squad members have seized 4.250 kg of hashish and 16.871 kg of opium from a number of persons. [GF251226 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 82 p 2]

BANDAR 'ABBAS DRUG FIND--According to Bandar 'Abbas Central News Unit, in the past week the brother Revolution Guards have seized 150 rolls of opium, 1 kg of opium juice, one colt, together with two full magazines and a number of bullets from a group of traffickers. [Text] [GF251605 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Apr 82]

CSO: 5300/5392

SOUTH AFRICA

INFILTRATION OF DRUGS INTO TOWNSHIPS BECOMING UNCONTROLLABLE

Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 12 Mar 82 p 6

[Editorial: "This Crime Must Be Smashed"]

[Text]

AS IS THE CASE with most major crime, the slow infiltration of drugs into the townships will very soon become an uncontrollable problem.

The police have recently made arrests with massive hauls of Mandrax pills recovered. Indications are that with the kind of haul involved this is about to become big-time crime with all its attendant social evils.

When drugs are abused they tend to become a social problem with wide ramifications. One would have thought we blacks have enough problems without this extraordinarily difficult one added.

In the past few years there has been a trickle of arrests, and a few big ones, and we are only hoping the police do not relax their vigilance. This crime must be smashed.

We do not claim to know much about Mandrax. What we know is that the drug brings in massive sums of money for those involved in its traffic. The point is, innocuous as this drug may be, there is danger that those who indulge in it may be lured to trying the more potent ones. For addiction to one drug usually means the demand for a bigger "kick" or a more potent effect on the user.

Our experience of drug traffick-

ing is that it telescopes into an amoebic monster with a whole brace of social evils.

Those who get addicted soon become desperate and are forced to commit the most heinous and vicious crimes to satisfy their crave. Many of them get desperately ill, some lose their minds. Many die.

Drugs soon become available to young who are then used by unscrupulous criminal bosses.

Kids, and very often adults, become vulnerable and easily manipulated by bosses to commit grave crimes or do the most terrible perversions. Eventually the scene becomes organised.

In places like America big outfits like the Mafia which thrive on drugs traffic control the lives of millions. They control the police, they control magistrates and judges, they control mayors, doctors and lawyers, they control the media. We are painting a grim picture for we wish to show the evil of drug trafficking and what it can do to our people.

With the kind of money soon involved life becomes cheap. Mobsters rub each other out. Some are hired as "hit-men". Gangs begin to fight for control and soon the whole community is held in terror by greed and lust for money and more drugs.

CSO: 5300/5709

END