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24 JUNE 1982

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 28/82)

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BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

BAN ON FOREIGN DRUGS--Dacca, 1 Jun (AFP)--The military regime of Lt Gen Ershad has decided to stop some multinational pharmaceutical companies from marketing their products in Bangladesh, the daily BANGLADESH TIMES reported. The daily said a decision has also been taken to prohibit manufacture and sale of over 1,740 items of pharmaceutical products in the country. The decisions were taken after consideration of the recommendation of the eight-member expert committee on drugs constituted about a month ago. The committee which submitted its reports to government recently evaluated different aspects of about 4,170 items of registered drugs currently available in the market. The committee followed guidelines that not more than 248 basic drugs are essential, the paper said, adding that although the prohibited drugs numbering over 1,740 would be allowed to be sold till December 31, some of the dangerous drugs would be banned with immediate effect. A decision has also been taken to the effect that no foreign product will be allowed to be manufactured under license in any factory if the same or similar products are available or manufactured in Bangladesh. The measure, according to experts, would save the government a lot of money annually by stopping import of or manufacture of unnecessary drugs. [Hong Kong AFP in English 0029 GMT 1 Jun 82 BK]

CSO: 5300/2312

INDIA

BRIEFS

HASHISH SMUGGLER CONVICTED--Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate J M Malik on Friday sentenced an ex-army officer to three years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 30,000 under the Customs Act and the Dangerous Drugs Act as a sequel to seizure of 415 lbs of hashish at Montreal, Canada in 1975, reports PTI. Mr Malik discharged the other five co-accused of ex-Capt Hamid Ansari of Moradabad including a Canadian for lack of evidence. The hashish concealed in wooden furniture had been discovered by the Canadian Royal Mounted Police on 10 May, 1975 at Montreal. They had arrested six persons there for the smuggling charge and ex-Capt Ansari and others were charged by Customs in New Delhi. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 May 82 p 10]

OPIUM PRODUCTION CONTROL--JAIPUR, May 18--According to a Narcotics Department source, the Centre will gradually reduce the production of opium in the country. This is being brought through a phased programme and also for making the issue of licence to the cultivators more strict. As compared to the previous year, 314 opium cultivators were not given licences this year which reduced opium output in about 72 hectares. During the current year only those cultivators who could produce 25 kg of opium per hectare got the licence, the source said. Next year the target will be raised to 30 kg per hectare. This is expected to reduce the production and demand for opium. In Rajasthan opium is cultivated in Kota, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara and Jalore districts. [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 82 p 9]

DELHI HEROIN HAUL--NEW DELHI, May 18--The Narcotics Cell of the CBI today made the biggest haul of contraband heroin worth millions of dollars in the international drug market. According to CBI, the heroin weighing 2,535 gm worth Rs. 2,50,000 in the Indian market was seized from an Indian as he went to deliver it to some drug peddlers from abroad in South Delhi. [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 82 p 10]

CSO: 5300/7032

MALAYSIA

POLICE ANTINARCOTICS BRANCH EXPANDED IN SARAWAK

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 22 May 82 p 4

[Text]

KUCHING. — Sarawak police have stepped-up their war on the drug menace to the state.

Massive reinforcements are to be drafted into the force's Anti-narcotics Branch, which at present comprises only a handful of men drawn from various police sections.

The branch is to increase its staff to 173 officers and men, aided by trained tracker dogs being brought in from

Kuala Lumpur.

The department will recruit and train the extra staff within the next few months, Sarawak Police Commissioner Datuk Seri Yuen Yuet Leng said.

Dog handlers have already been trained and will be based in Kuching, Sibul and Miri.

One of the nation's top anti-narcotics officers, Encik Jaafar Abdul, has visited Kuching to complete arrangements for the expansion of the branch — which has already scored a major success against drug traffickers this month.

That came when a drug syndicate was rounded-up in Miri and a plan to snatch a \$200,000 payroll foiled.

Police also seized 260 grammes of heroin — enough for more than 55,000 shots — bound for Sarawak from Peninsular Malaysia.

The syndicate was smashed in two separate

swoops in Miri when six people were arrested, including a woman. Two were from Peninsular Malaysia, the rest local.

Datuk Yuen said the group had been planning to snatch a payroll at an oil palm estate near Miri.

He said the group had been smuggling drugs in from Peninsular Malaysia and supplying addicts in Miri, Bintulu, Limbang and Brunei.

Police had known about the smugglers since 1980 but they had stopped operating when they discovered police were on to them.

However, they started operating again early in April this year and police were immediately alerted. They kept a close watch on the six syndicate members before deciding to pick them up this month.

The success was achieved by the Anti-narcotics Branch with help from Kuala Lumpur of-

ficers under the direct control of Sarawak CID head Mr Leong Nyuk Min.

Datuk Yuen said narcotics officers will be keeping a close watch on the drug supply line to Kuching and Sibul.

Following the smashing of the Miri syndicate addicts are expected to experience difficulty obtaining heroin and might turn to other drugs, he said.

Since January police have taken in 403 drug addicts and pushers but only 55 were caught taking heroin or with heroin in their possession.

Datuk Yuen said the low success rate did not mean the rest were not involved with drugs. The reason could have been that at the time of the arrest they were clean or were taking a drug other than heroin.

Those released have been placed under supervision by the Welfare Ministry.

CSO: 5300/8328

PAKISTAN

WESTERN COUNTRIES CRITICIZED FOR THEIR 'HUNGER FOR NARCOTICS'

Karachi DAWN in English 19 May 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Narcotics Control"]

[Text]

ACCORDING to estimates, which is the best that one can do when dealing with something like narcotics production, Pakistan's opium output has dropped to 100-150 tons from the alarming 800 tons it had touched a few years ago. There could be a number of reasons for this, though the Government's efforts to curb production and the ban imposed on poppy cultivation in 1979 no doubt had much to do with it. However much the Western countries, particularly the United States, may want it, though, opium cultivation is not something which can simply be wished away in this country. It is certainly to be desired and our Government should make efforts towards this end, except for some production for medicinal reasons. But attempts by some Western countries, directly or obliquely, to saddle Pakistan and other such countries solely with the responsibility for the West's hunger for narcotics shows a sad ignorance of the realities. In fact, it is the other way round. Currently it is the West's unrestrained hunger for narcotics which have induced poor farmers in

Pakistan and other such countries to grow huge quantities of poppy.

Again, it should be emphasised that Pakistan, and other such countries, should try to curb the illicit trade in narcotics, but at the same time there is no question of accepting the entire blame for the drugs that do reach Europe and the United States. It is the duty of the countries of the West to curb the growth of addiction in their citizens, primarily through social reforms which help remove the reasons why their people seek refuge in drugs, and by the rehabilitation of those who are already addicted. If there is a high enough demand, and the price is right, narcotics will be supplied. If Pakistan manages to stop all but legal production, which it has been trying hard to do, another country will be the source, whether willingly or unwillingly. If we assume, for the sake of argument, that no supplies are coming from anywhere, the people in the West, given their present discontent, will contrive some other synthetic drug to seek escape in. LSD is not such an ancient phenomenon

after all.

All this, of course, does not absolve us of our responsibility in the matter, and we are prepared to accept our part of the responsibilities with more willingness than the West shows in its dealings with us. One of the ways in which drug trafficking can be stopped is through the action of law-enforcing agencies, and this country has made some intensive efforts in this direction, including the formation of a high-powered board and task forces. But if the West, with its vast and sophisticated police machinery, cannot put a stop to smuggling or to sales in the streets, how can we be expected to — when we do not have enough money to police our streets efficiently? Then there is the matter of putting a stop to cultivation, but there are several historical and political reasons why this cannot be done easily or in a very short time. Historically, the people where poppy is mostly grown

have 'always' considered it their right to do so — and they are a close-knit, self-willed people who have not taken kindly to the dictates of any government. When a people have not let anyone meddle with their laws for so many decades, they are not going to comply easily or in a few years when they are asked not to grow something they have 'always' been growing. Of course, police can be sent in to enforce the law, but it will require an army to keep an eye on the many small patches of land where poppy is grown, often in remote mountain valleys. As far as we are concerned, there is urgent need to reduce sale of hard drugs and addiction in our people but, for us, it is a social problem like many others which require urgent attention. Intensive efforts to curb poppy cultivation must continue, and should include some forceful steps, but the Western countries should not expect immediate results.

CSO: 5300/5771

PAKISTAN

U.S. AMBASSADOR DISAGREES WITH 'DAWN' VIEW

Karachi DAWN in English 23 May 82 p 11

[Letters to the Editor: "Narcotics Control"]

[Text]

Your editorial of May 19 ("Narcotics control") reflects growing public awareness of narcotics problems in Pakistan. Since informed public attention is a prerequisite for an effective public policy, it should be welcomed by all concerned in Pakistan and abroad. Narcotics threatens to become a major scourge of world civilization; no less dangerous perhaps than the spectre of nuclear war.

While I believe that your editorial has made a real contribution to public understanding of the issues involved, there is one point in your treatment of this subject which I would like to take an opportunity to comment on: that some Western countries are attempting to saddle others with some responsibility for this problem. This is incorrect.

As you explicitly recognize, no one can be absolved of responsibility. On this issue, any kind of an adversarial attitude is a bar to effective action. This is not a Western problem alone; it is not just a function of Western "discontent". Pakistan is not immune from the "hunger for narcotics," which is growing apace here. Your neighbour Iran has long been plagued by a serious heroin abuse problem. Thailand and

Malaysia have rapidly increasing problems.

What is required is a multi-faceted cooperative international effort at narcotics control in which all play their part. We recognize and sympathise with the difficulties that Pakistan faces in opium production control. They are as great as those the U.S. and other countries face in controlling addiction and smuggling on their home ground. The U.S. is now spending over \$1 billion annually in combatting these problems. We are helping others to the tune of \$40 million a year. The Governments of Pakistan and the United States are beginning to work jointly and wholeheartedly in the development of programmes we hope will advance our common objectives.

We know that immediate success is out of the question. Demand and supply must be tackled simultaneously and in coordination. We do, however, feel that we can achieve rapid results working together, and we believe your editorial should be helpful in mobilising the attention of responsible citizens.

RONALD I. SPIERS
American Ambassador
Islamabad

CSO: 5300/5771

PAKISTAN

DEATH PENALTY FOR TRAFFICKING SUPPORTED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 19 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Death to Drug Traffickers"]

[Text] Inaugurating a week-long course on Sunday in Islamabad, for social workers on Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts, the Interior Minister Mr Mahmood Haroon emphasised that our aim should be total elimination and eradication of trade in narcotics and its use by the citizens. Quite rightly he said that drug traffickers should be shown no mercy. As a guideline to the participants in the course he reminded them that in most cases the drug addicts were unwitting victims of the unscrupulous drug traffickers and were, therefore, to be treated not as culprits or social outcasts but as human beings needing sympathy.

Trafficking in drugs is carried on clandestinely and the clients for the dope are enlisted in a similar manner. This multiplies the difficulties of curbing the trade or forewarning the young or the uneducated unsuspecting victims of the danger in becoming a drug addict. There is also the factor that the drug addicts become highly secretive about the whole thing for fear of being cut off from the supply in case the gang dealing in the stuff is busted. It is these advantages that help the drug traffickers and make the task of law-enforcing agencies so difficult.

Slowly and surreptitiously the drug addiction has made serious inroads into Pakistan also where the victims mostly happen to belong to the lower class of people the student community and, in some cases, to ladies in the upper class. It is a new danger facing Pakistan. The most disturbing part of the set-up is the fact that certain areas in the northern part of the country, which are beyond the pale of normal laws grow poppy crop which brings high profits to the growers. The easy availability of the stuff and a most lucrative market for it in European and American countries has proved to be a great temptation for the traffickers. In the last one or two years huge consignments of charas, heroin and opium amounting to billions of rupees in the foreign markets have been caught in Pakistan. But one can never be sure that the seized consignments formed the total traffic.

To check the cultivation of poppy in the northern areas, Pakistan is working on a concrete plan, in association with certain UN agencies, to induce the

cultivators of poppy to switch over to other crops. These efforts, initiated under a definite programme, have been fruitful in that the poppy crop has been reduced to a 100 tons now which two years ago was as high as 800 tons. But to limit the output to the desired level, the crop-substitution project will have to be combined with the development of a socio-economic infrastructure in the "target area". This is expensive and time-consuming. But the Phase II of the project which covers the period 1981 to 1984 may prove helpful in achieving the intended goals.

It would be some time yet before the cultivation of poppy crop can be brought under complete control. In the meantime the traffic in the drug is continuing unabated, and this poses a problem for Pakistan as well as the Western countries. The nature of the crime and the character of the people indulging in it make it imperative that methods to curb these criminals should be equally harsh [word illegible] determined. Drug addiction is nothing short of a slow and lingering death for the victim while for the family of the addict it is the most excruciating agony to see one of the dear ones being slowly [des]troyed in soul and body. Enticing somebody into the use of drug is indeed worse than killing him. A killer commits murder in a fit of passion but a drug trafficker sends his victims to his doom in a cool and calculated manner and is, therefore, much more dangerous for human society than an ordinary murderer. These fiendish people deserve no mercy. Perhaps it were these considerations that prompted the international Islamic conference, held at Medina in March last, to recommend death punishment for drug smugglers and pedlars. We hope Pakistan and other Muslim countries will adopt the recommendation without delay.

CSO: 5300/5771

PAKISTAN

PUNJAB EFFORTS AT CRACKDOWN ON NARCOTICS LAUDED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Crackdown Against Narcotics"]

[Text]

Coordinating with a countrywide campaign, the Punjab Government has set up a special task force to crack down on the anti-social elements involved in the illicit trafficking of intoxicants and narcotics. Drawn from the Punjab police, the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board and the Excise Department, the task force will operate in Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Mianwali under the guidance of DIG crimes, Punjab. It will collect information about the illegal cultivation, manufacture, sale and use of narcotics, conduct raids to apprehend traffickers and register cases against them under the Drugs Act. The campaign comes in the wake of an elaborate preparation of records about smugglers of narcotics in the country and is aimed at eliminating the crime from our midst.

Pakistan is signatory to two conventions of 1961 and 1971 against non-medical use of narcotic drugs and substances. The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board has been co-ordinating the efforts made in the

country to implement the law against drug-trafficking. Last year, the production of poppy, the source of opium, in Pakistan was brought down to 85 tons from the high figure of 8,000 tons in 1978-79. PNCB in the past year seized 6,915 kg. of opium, 212 kg. of morphine, 171 kg. of heroin, 31,771 kg. of cannabis (resin) 277 kg. of cannabis (liquid) and 11 phials of cocaine. Late last year, the Government signed an agreement with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for a 4.2 million dollars assistance to carry out extensive crop substitution in the areas of NWFP where the cultivation of poppy is subsistence economy for a section of the population. It is quite apparent that the widespread smuggling and use of narcotics has little direct relationship with the cultivation of poppy inside Pakistan. The bulk of narcotics seized have been smuggled from outside. Already action has been taken against naval vessels and airliners involved in the traffic and most of the contraband

has been seized before its onward despatch. The anti-narcotic campaign in the Punjab will be extremely useful in wiping out the gradually developing habit of taking drugs in the younger people who take to it in imitation of the Western life-style. Especially harmful is the consumption of opium-related drugs which can rapidly form addiction and thus render the consumer useless as a citizen and lay him open to all sorts of anti-social activities. It is hoped that the task force will prove widely effective and play a role in eliminating narcotics from our lives.

CSO: 5300/5771

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZED--PESHAWAR, May 19--Customs mobile squad recovered 41 kilo gram of heroin powder worth Rs. 410 million from a motorcar on Swabi Topi Road yesterday. According to details the mobile customs squad recovered 41 kilograms of heroin powder hidden in various parts of the car. The powder was being smuggled to Quetta. The customs squad also arrested one person Arif Ullah of Tehk kal Bala Peshawar. The investigations are in progress. [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 May 82 p 5]

MOVE TO END MENACE--ISLAMABAD, May 19--The provincial Governments have recently been asked to give their expert opinion on how to discourage narcotics trade in Pakistan, it is reliably learnt. The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board has forwarded to the provincial Governments a draft ordinance on narcotics, for their comments. The PNCB high-ups believe the new ordinance will help eliminate the drug trafficking more effectively. [Karachi DAWN in English 20 May 82 p 10]

PAKISTAN CALLED 'DRUG CENTER---KABUL, May 19 (Bakhtar)--Pakistan, especially during the reign of the present military Government, has become a big export centre of narcotics like opium and heroin. Monthly Jeddo Jahd, printed in the Federal Republic of Germany, in its recent issue, writes: "During the last five years of military rule in Pakistan, the export of narcotic drugs has increased several times. The investigations by international agencies has proved that the top-ranking members of the military junta are also involved in the production and smuggling of the narcotic drugs." The monthly, quoting the reports of famous American columnist Jack Anderson, and the published reports of the investigators of the International Narcotics Control Board, writes that the Pakistan International Airlines is acting as the carrier for the narcotic drugs. [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 May 82 p 1]

CSO: 5300/5771

PHILIPPINES

DRIVE ON DRUGS LAUNCHED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 2 Jun 82 p 8

[Text] A campaign to prevent and control the drug abuse among students in the Ilocos region was launched recently by the regional peace and order campaign committee.

The campaign code-named "Operation Big Brother" seeks to gain the full cooperation of the public and private sector "through a unified and sustained information and education campaign."

The regional director of Napolcom Archimides Piga said, the campaign is non-punitive. It is rather a compassionate and persuasive approach to complement the revitalized Dangerous Drugs Act of 1982. It is focused more on the students since it is the students who are easy prey of drug pushers and peddlers."

The aim of the campaign is to establish a sister-brother relations between the parents and teachers.

NBI Director Oscar de Leon said, Operation Big Brother also seeks to strengthen the character and moral fiber of the youth especially the students so that they can withstand the temptations of drugs.

CSO: 5300/5779

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA CONVOY SEIZED--Two truckloads of marijuana plants valued at P4 million have been seized by government agents in two plantations in the mountain slopes in Benguet, NBI Director Jolly Bugarin said yesterday. He said the plantations were found this week in remote towns of Kibungan and Bakun. A total of 5,150 full grown marijuana plants were uprooted and four sacks of dried marijuana leaves were seized by the raiding team. But he said the cultivators eluded arrest and were the object of a manhunt. They are Inngo Sagayo, 32, of barangay Legleg, Kibungan; and Sulman Madino, 28, of Beyeng, Bakun. According to Bugarin, the shrubs were planted in the clearings along the mountain slopes in barangays Legleg and Beyeng. He said the plantation had been under surveillance for about a month following information received by the NBI on the plantations. The first raid was made Thursday at Legleg where 3,030 plants were discovered along with three sacks of dried marijuana leaves in a nipa hut. Two days later, the raiders swooped down in Beyeng plantation and uprooted 2,120 plants and found one sack of marijuana leaves also in a nipa hut nearby. The seizure was the biggest made by the NBI the past few days. Last week, NBI agents and an air force team raided another plantation in Mt. Baguid-big, Benguet and confiscated 4,700 plants worth some P3.5 million. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 30 May 82 p 2]

CSO: 5300/5773

THAILAND

DEPUTY MINISTER'S AIDE IMPLICATED IN DRUG CASE

Warrant Issued

BK080307 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 8 Jun 82 p 6

[Text] The police department has issued a warrant for the arrest of Deputy Interior Minister Banyat Bantaththan's close aide who has been charged with involvement in the seizure of about 30 million baht worth of marijuana. Police Director General Pol Gen Suraphon Chunlaphram said yesterday that police were yesterday tracking down on Withun Thapkhieu.

Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarot said yesterday that he had set up a committee to investigate into the alleged implications of Withun in the drug trafficking.

The order to form the investigating committee came on Friday after opposition leader Samak Sunthonwet said during the no-confidence debate last week that customs officials had uncovered clues to incriminate Banyat's close aide. Samak claimed that police found that a communications radio set equipped on a fishing trawler which ferried the drug belonged to Banyat's close aide. Withun allegedly borrowed the communications equipment from the Civil Aviation Department for use in the affairs of the Interior Ministry.

Sitthi said yesterday that the committee was set up to find out how the radio equipment had fallen into the hands of the drug traffickers. The committee which comprises three members was set up at the recommendation of Banyat, he said.

Banyat said that the alleged involvement would never prompt him to resign. "I have never clung to my seat, but if I am to resign, I would have sound justifications," he said. He declined to comment over the radio equipment found in the fishing trawler, but said it was his assistant secretary, Amnuai Suwankhiri, to oversee the borrowing of communications equipment from other government agencies. He said that the communications equipment used in the interior ministry was normally borrowed from the police department, and not the Civil Aviation Department.

Withun was seconded from the Parliament to the office of the interior undersecretary of state at the order of Banyat, he said. He said that he assigned Withun to coordinate with the Parliament. "He has prepared documents about motions involving the Interior Ministry for me to study," he said.

Report on Warrant Denied

BK080649 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] In connection with the report which cited the police chief as saying that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Withun Thapkhieu, an aide of the deputy interior minister, Police Maj Gen Ophat Rattanasin, commander of the special branch, has disclosed that he consulted the police chief on the matter. The police chief informed him that he never informed newsmen that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Withun, he only said that an investigation is underway. The public is hereby informed.

CSO: 5300/2312

THAILAND

AFTERMATH OF 9 MAY ANTI-SUA RAID DISCUSSED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 25 May 82 p 5

[Article by Sermsuk Kasitpradit]

[Text]

MANY A VILLAGER of Baan Hin Taek (Baan Therd Thai) in Chiang Rai province, in the wake of the latest round of suppression drive against opium warlord Khun Sa's strongholds farther north has decided to move out, perhaps, not to return again. The sense of insecurity, following a series of armed clashes between government forces and the Shan rebels, has simply intensified, whether the threat was real or imaginary.

"As soon as the Baan Hin Taek villagers saw armed men march in late on May 9, their instinct told them that clashes were to erupt once again. Naturally, they got scared. The tough battles before this one were still vivid in their memory, and many moved out to nearby Huay Pung village, just in case..." a local teacher at Baan Hin Taek told *The Nation* last week just as the bombardment of the new strongholds of Khun Sa's rebels north of Baan Hin Taek was winding down once again.

The apprehensive mood apparently hit the innocent villagers the hardest. "Many of them had trekked across hills with their children and grandchildren to Baan Hin Taek, only to move out again.

"Many people told me they wouldn't return since they didn't want to be hit in the crossfire," said a local official who has been in close touch with the Shan and local villagers in the past eight years said.

Before the latest anti-rebel operations were launched on May 9, the government had on Jan 21 sprung one of the heaviest suppression drives against Khun Sa's men and his headquarters. At least 29 persons were killed in that drive, according to official figures. These did not include Khun Sa's men who died and were wounded by direct assault. Officially, 17 government men were killed in the operations. A large amount of arms and ammunition were found. Khun Sa's stronghold at Baan Hin Taek was virtually destroyed. He fled into Burma with his top men.

By Feb 10, the military forces pulled out of the area, after having mapped out a development plan for the local administrative officials to work on to uplift the livelihood of the people at Baan Therd Thai (Baan Hin Taek) which will, according to the plans, change its face into a new development village.

But the government's continuous reconnaissance after that operations soon found that Khun Sa's men had set up their new strongholds again about eight kilometres inside Thai territory, at Baan Lao Lue, north of Baan Therd Thai. About 40 houses were located there. Khun Sa's Shan United Army had also set up its new stronghold at Baan Huey Yuak. A government helicopter was shot at on Feb 9, sparking off a major operations to wipe out the Shan rebels who didn't seem to have learned their

lessons from the first major campaign.

The last operations may have died down but life will never be the same again for villagers of Baan Hin Taek. Some local villagers claimed that the Jan 21 operations had resulted in severe damage to their personal belongings and properties. They also felt that while the Shan rebels might have found their way out of the offensive in time, many local villagers couldn't make it in time. But they were sandwiched between the two sides.

The traces of the severe operations are still everywhere at Baan Therd Thai today. The charred houses and burnt-out areas stand out prominently in this village of about 300 families of around 2,000 people.

"It was a mini-war in itself," said a veteran villager who witnessed the first major armed confrontation between government forces and the Shan rebels in January.

"Many villagers have returned. But others have left forever. Some of them came back, surveyed their bombed-out houses and bodies of their relatives and left again," said another villager.

Khun Sa, also known as Chang Si-fu, had virtually built up Baan Hin Taek in 1960 to make it the headquarters of his SUA movement although it was clear that his main activity was to trade in opium and to resort to the lucrative business of keeping in close touch with

heroin refineries which dotted the Thai-Burmese borders.

Some local villagers may still defend Khun Sa and deny that Baan Hin Taek was the centre of drug-trafficking but evidence from various sources pointed to that fact. Most structures are concrete-made and there is even a self-generating power station here.

It's a rare village in such a remote area (40 kilometres from the main road) that could prove itself so self-sufficient.

A local administrative official said that the January operations might have forced Khun Sa and his right-hand men to flee Baan Hin Taek but it might have not cut off the heroin connection in any significant way.

The government in Bangkok declared soon after the operations that at least three heroin refineries in the area were destroyed during the operations and a large number of bags used to contain heroin were found but local official sources said they weren't quite sure how much heroin was found. In fact, they doubted that any significant of refined narcotics was found in the village at all.

One villager, more concerned about his own damage in the operations, recalled that he lost 400,000 baht of property in that drive.

We were very, very scared when the Jan 21 operations broke out," he recalled. "We never expected it to erupt just like that. I myself fled to live with relatives at Baan Huay Pung, thinking that the situation would return to normal the next day. But on Jan 22, there was still shooting all around. On Jan 23, the authorities declared the whole area off-limits. We all had to move out..."

The Border Patrol Police from Zone 6 later moved in to take control of the village. "We moved back in during Jan 23-29 but we were told we couldn't move into our own houses yet. When we finally returned homes after that, a lot of our belongings and property were gone or damaged. Everything was ransacked. I lost several hundreds of thousands of cash myself. We were speechless and couldn't say anything..." an old villager said.

A Chinese Haw said through an interpreter that he had lost a large quantity of jade, gold and other valuables while the fighting was on.

Perhaps, they were searching for drugs but they didn't even ask the village headmen..."

The military and BPP personnel have moved out of Baan Therd Thai and in charge now are elements of the Seventh Company, Zone 5 of the BPP, a member of whom admitted that it would be a formidable task to return normality to the area.

"We sometimes felt like we were sacrificial lambs sent here to be victims of the anger of some people out here. We are trying to pacify them and explain things to the villagers. It will take time for them to understand us," one police officer said.

One of the 26 members of Baan Therd Thai village committee said: "We know that we are aliens making a living in Thailand. We are grateful to Thai hospitality. We know we have no rights to demand anything from Thailand. But the operations were tough. We knew it was the biggest-ever actions in the village and it's difficult to forget the scenes..."

One major change at Baan Therd Thai is the schooling system here.

Once only the Chinese-language was taught. Now, Thai authorities have moved in to make sure that Thai is also part of the curriculum.

Baan Therd Thai, in many ways, isn't too different from Mae Salong, the main area of the remnants of the former 93rd Nationalist Chinese Division to the west. All children were given only Chinese lessons. But now, Baan Therd Thai's face is slowly changing in that respect too.

There are a total of 583 students at the schools at Baan Therd Thai, divided into 380 boys and 203 girls, with 22 teachers, 20 of whom are teaching Chinese while only two are responsible for the Thai lessons.

But since Thai lessons had never in the past been an important part of the schooling system here, the launching of Thai-language courses have proved a problem.

"Chinese is the main language and Thai is taught only four hours per week. That is practically meaningless. Their daily life up here was never dependent on Thai language before," Teacher Chanhom Kemavong, a young female teacher who had been here for three years explained.

She said: "Children here have yet to feel part of the Thai society. Their dream is to get their

further education in Taiwan. What they teach here at Baan Hin Taek is also based on the Taiwanese pattern. The school was set up in 1973 but it was not until 1979 that the Hilltribe Assistance Centre sent in Thai-language teachers. That didn't prove to be very effective either."

By August, this year, she said at least 18 children from Baan Hin Taek, having finished the secondary schooling, would be flying to Taiwan. And that's the first batch from here to Taiwan. She wouldn't say who is sponsoring the children's further education abroad.

The school now however has been transferred to the provincial education body under Chiang Rai following the major operations against Khun Sa. On May 10, a government course would officially be inaugurated for the first time.

"I hope the situation will improve from now on," the Thai teacher said. About 12 more Thai-language teachers will be drawn from the Mae Chan district administration and the curriculum will follow that set by the Education Ministry.

Apart from the schooling system, the government has also set down a long-term plan to develop Baan Therd Thai to recover from the heavy military operations.

An official survey has found that 800 houses in six villages in the area were affected in the operations. Fourteen cars were damaged.

"Our main purpose is to encourage proper agricultural development to replace opium and to create better understanding here," one official said, adding:

"Our development plan won't be devoted exclusively only to Baan Hin Taek. It will cover the whole of the border areas with Baan Hin Taek serving as the focal point."

The master plan calls for the building of roads and other kinds of infrastructure and to ensure economic stability for the local villagers. Substitute crops to phase out opium will be an important element in the overall plan, which would involve almost all major government agencies, including forestry, public health, administration, land reform, livestock husbandry.

Baan Therd Thai is due to get a facelift — a major shakeup and a new lifestyle under the new master plan. But the sense of anxiety and uncertainty remain, at least in the initial period when work has yet to begin in earnest to offer the local people what has been promised.

CSO: 5300/5776

THAILAND

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES NEED TO COMBAT PRO-KHUN SA INFLUENCES

Chiang Mai THIN THAI in Thai 14 May 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Influential Groups"]

[Text] The return of the forces of Khun Sa, or Chang Si Fu, has cost the life of one more Thai. The news report stated that he was a thahan phran irregular.

The return of these forces shows that the expulsion of these narcotics traffickers, who are known throughout the world, did not achieve any results. A news report has stated that they have set up a camp with 140 covered buildings. This construction required the use of much manpower and took much time. Officials did not know the reason for this until the clash when the officials who attacked this group were able to seize the buildings.

It is thought that if Khun Sa had not shot an official because of mistakenly thinking that they had come to suppress him, these people would still be living there comfortably. They have acted as if this Thai territory belongs to them just as they did at Ban Hin Taek in Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province. Many past government closed their eyes to them and allowed them to become bolder. They greatly increased their strength in both manpower and weapons and continually engaged in narcotics trafficking even though the entire world knew.

Concerning the return of these forces, a government spokesman stated that an influential group is supporting them. This group told Khun Sa that he could return and that government officials would not do anything. Unfortunately, the government spokesman did not say who this influential group was. But it is believed that the government is not sitting by idly and that it is taking swift action against this influential group. It will not be a threat to the state.

Thais have long wondered why past governments have neglected to carry out their duty. Some governments have allowed evil groups to enter the country. That is, they allowed the 93rd KMT Division to come in and settle down firmly in Thailand at Doi Mae Salong in Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province, and at Tham Ngop in Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province. The government allowed

this even though it knew that this was an evil group that was involved in the narcotics trade. The claim that this was done in order to have them serve as a defense line against the communists is not reasonable. National defense is the duty of Thais. It is not necessary to bring in foreigners to do this and then give them land on which Thais, the owners of the country, cannot step foot on. Besides this, this group has always been involved in the drug trade. While they say that they are no longer involved in this trade, narcotics suppression officials do not believe them. And nothing can be done because high-ranking people have cited national security reasons to protect this evil group.

Thailand belongs to the Thai people. People cannot turn over territory easily. Once such groups are here, it is difficult to get rid of them. For example, the KMT soldiers have raised families here but they still consider themselves to be Chinese. They only say that they want to change their nationality and become Thai citizens. If these people are allowed to become Thai citizens, this will show their power even more and Thais will become second-class citizens even though they are the owners of the country. This matter should be considered carefully.

11943

CSO: 5300/5764

THAILAND

ADDICT TREATMENT STATISTICS, INCOME REPORTED

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 13 May 82 pp 3, 10

[Article: "More Than 100,000 Thai Addicts Are Unemployed"]

[Text] The Office of the Narcotics Control Board has reported that, in 1980, a total of 11,837 drug addicts went to state and private drug rehabilitation centers for treatment. It is estimated that there are 8-12 times as many addicts who are not undergoing treatment. Thus, it is estimated that there are presently at least 100,000 addicts in Thailand.

These data were gathered in 1979 and 1980 from people who voluntarily went to public and private rehabilitation centers for treatment. The data were reported to the ONCB. In 1979, 7,578 addicts voluntarily went to 28 rehabilitation centers for treatment. In 1980, 11,837 addicts went to 39 rehabilitation centers for treatment.

As for the types of drugs used, more than 80 percent of those who came for treatment used No 4 heroin. In particular, No 4 heroin was used the most by those in Bangkok and in the south.

Opium was the drug preferred by those in the north and northeast. And the thing worth noting is that the use of amphetamines, or "horse medicine," is on the rise in the northeast.

Besides this, it was learned that 96 percent of those who came for treatment were Thais and that 95.8 percent were men. Only 4.2 percent were women. The statistics were similar for both years. Most addicts were in the 21-25 age group. This was the same in every region.

Most of those who came for treatment did not have an income. It is understood that the addicts rely on their parents, relatives or others to pay for the drugs.

A researcher said that this report shows the spread of drug abuse in Thailand by relying only on data obtained from addicts who voluntarily came for treatment. If the number of addicts who have not come for treatment is to be estimated, this must be done tentatively and it will take a long time. However, those concerned estimate that the number of addicts who have not gone for treatment is 8-12 times as large. If this is true, it means that there are at least 100,000 addicts in Thailand.

11943
CSO: 5300/5764

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THAILAND

POLICE MAJOR IMPLICATED IN MARIHUANA THEFT

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 17 May 82 pp 1, 12

[Article: "The Chief Inspector At the Provincial Police Station In Pak Thong Chai District Was Quickly Transferred. Marihuana "salad" Is Evidence"]

[Text] It has been proposed that the chief inspector at the Nakhon Ratchasima provincial police station in Pak Thong Chai District be transferred to the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 1. He was implicated in the mysterious disappearance of 53 bags of marihuana. The owner of the marihuana has been arrested. Preparations are being made to get rid of some corrupt policemen.

A MATICHON reporter in Nakhon Ratchasima Province has reported that he was informed by a news source in the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 2 that, at present, Police Lieutenant General Rut Kantharat, the Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 2, has proposed to Police General Suraphon Chulaphrahom, the director-general of the Police Department, that Police Major Subancha Kamonket, the chief inspector at the provincial police station in Pak Thong Chai District, be transferred to the Police Department. However, the report stated that Police General Suraphon will instead transfer this man to the government reserves of the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 1. This has resulted because an investigation showed that he was involved in the theft of 53 bags of marihuana that had been seized as evidence. Grass was stuffed in the bags and the marihuana was taken and sold. This happened after police officials seized 61 bags of marihuana weighing 1,200 kilograms.

The news report stated that, concerning this matter, at present, high-ranking police officers of the Commissioner's Office of the Provincial 2 are quickly

conducting an investigation. When the investigation has been completed, it is expected that several other policemen will face both disciplinary and criminal punishment. On 14 May, officials arrested Mr Bun, or Lek, the owner of the marihuana even though he was not implicated in the investigation report.

The same reporter reported that on 4 February, Police Lieutenant Colonel Bunmi Chitkaeo, a T.L. inspector, arrested Mr Subin Duangchai and seized his 10-wheeled truck, license No Loei 70-0157, together with the marihuana. He turned the man and evidence over to Police Sub-Lieutenant Chaiprakon Phanthong, the officer on duty at the provincial police station in Pak Thong Chai District, at 1100 hours on 5 February for further handling of the case. The case was investigated and the file was sent to the court. The court tried the case and sentenced Mr Subin to 3 years in prison.

However, during that period, a large quantity of the marihuana that had been seized disappeared. Police Lieutenant General Narong Mahanon, the deputy director-general of the Police Department, ordered Police Major General Niyom Kanchanawat, the deputy commander of C.K., to go and conduct an investigation. He discovered that the 53 bags of marihuana had really disappeared. Following this, Police Lieutenant General Rut put Police Major General Thawatchai Phithak, the deputy commissioner of the provincial 2, in charge of a team of high-ranking police officers from the Commissioners' Office of the Provincial 2 and from the Nakhon Ratchasima provincial police precinct. The team's task was to conduct an investigation and hand out both disciplinary and criminal punishment to those who are guilty of wrongdoing.

11943
CSO: 5300/5764

THAILAND

LAO OPIUM TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN LOEI

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 18 May 82 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Two Lao Men With Opium Valued At 10 Million Cross Into Thailand"]

[Text] Two Lao men who had crossed over into Thailand to sell opium were arrested. The trail led to merchants in Bangkok. The deputy provincial governor and police officials devised a plan and arrested them together with evidence weighing 15 kilograms. They found two large baskets that had been smuggled into the country and that contained narcotics.

A DAO SIAM reporter in Loei has reported that Mr Mangkon Krongsuwan, the deputy governor of Loei Province, and a group of policemen including Police Major Kaeo Thicharoen, the chief inspector at the provincial police station in Chiang Khan District, Police Major Prasit Sirikla, an inspector, Police Captain Pramot Yiemthat, the deputy inspector at the Loei provincial police station in Muang District, several other police officers and officials from the Mekong River Operations Unit joined together to make a plan to arrest drug dealers from Laos who were going to ship narcotics to Thai dealers in an area north of Ban Phabaen in Buhom Commune, Chiang Khan District, Loei Province. An agent had reported that this would definitely take place.

Then at 1700 hours on 17 May, all the officials went and surrounded this area, which is near the Mekong River on the Thai side. They saw two Lao men row a boat across and dock along the bank. When the two Lao men saw the plainclothes officials, they called out "are you ready?" When our officials replied "yes," the two Lao men hurried up to them. The officials then seized them without any resistance. They also seized the evidence that the two were carrying and the bags. There were a total of 16 bags of opium weighing 15 kilograms.

From the investigation, the two Lao men were identified as Mr Somyot, age 40, and Mr Nak, age 38. They lived in Pak Mi Village in Sanakham District, Vientiane Province, Laos. It was learned that they had arranged to meet merchants whom they were in frequent contact with. Later, merchants from Bangkok were to come and take all the drugs to Bangkok.

However, after the completion of the investigation, the officials placed the two Lao suspects under arrest on charges of entering the country illegally and of having narcotics in their possession. As for the value of the narcotics that were seized, on foreign markets the drugs would have been worth tens of millions of baht.

11943

CSO: 5300/5764

THAILAND

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZED IN CHIANG MAI--At 1200 hours on 12 May 1982, Police Captain Chirawat Luongsuphawibun, a police official with the Sam Yot Suppression Division who had gone to Chiang Mai Province on official business, learned that drug traffickers were going to meet at the Saen Suk bungalow on Chottana Road in Chang Phuok Commune, Muang District, Chiang Mai Province. He thus joined a group disguised as merchants and made contact to purchase drugs. They met five drug dealers: Mr Noppaphon Phaosurikan, age 32, who lives at No 96, Mahachai Commune, Muang District, Samut Sakhon Province; Mr Aphorn Amkrom, age 25, who lives at No 193, Village 1, Khi Lek Commune, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province; Mrs Bunrim Ongsong, age 35, who lives at No 6, Village 3, Ban Bao Commune, Mae Taeng District, Chiang Mai Province; Mr Saming Chinna, age 25, who lives at No 95, Village 1, Khi Lek Commune, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province; and Mr Silachon Yonbua, age 30, who lives at No 25, Village 1, Khi Lek Commune, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province. After they agreed to purchase 12 kilograms at a price of 15,000 baht per kilogram for a total of 180,000 baht, the five drug dealers brought the 12 kilograms of cooked opium and gave it to Police Captain Chirawat and the other officers. They immediately revealed that they were police officers and arrested the group and seized the evidence. They were turned over to Police Captain Sainan Chantharasak, the officer on duty at the Chiang Mai provincial police station in the district, for further investigation. [Text] [Bangkok PHYA KHRUT in Thai 13 May 82 p 16] 11943

CSO: 5300/5764

CANADA

BRIEFS

HASHISH TRAFFICKING CHARGE--A Walkley Road man, arrested after what Ottawa police say is the biggest drug bust in the force's history, has been remanded in custody to await a Tuesday bail hearing. Ronald Karl Howell, 25, appeared in court Friday, charged with possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking. Police made the arrest Thursday, about 12 hours after seizing hashish with an estimated street value of \$1 million. Staff Insp. John McCombie said the hashish was found in a parked car in Ottawa's south end by the city's morality division at 8 p.m. Wednesday. Its value was put at about \$1 million. Police say the investigation is continuing and would not release any other details. [Text] [Ottawa THE WEEKEND CITIZEN in English 22 May 82 p 42]

CSO: 5320/32

BOLIVIA

PAPER CALLS FOR ECONOMIC AID TO COCA ERADICATION EFFORTS

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 May 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Eradication of Coca Plantations"]

[Text] There are moral questions and the matter of international prestige that force us to take measures to wipe out and, insofar as possible, prevent the manufacture of cocaine in our country. It is our own obligation but one matched by its overriding importance to countries whose inhabitants have an alarmingly high rate of use of the drug.

An analysis of causes resulting in a proliferation of laboratories in Bolivia leads us to two conclusions. First of all, the situation is due to the fact that it was possible to obtain the raw material with relative ease and at a price advantageous to drug traffickers, meaning that it is a tempting operation despite the risks run. Second, because of the aforementioned fact, it is necessary to eradicate the manufacturing process in its early stages: where the raw material is produced and freely marketed. Consequently, the most recent provisions have provided for and, to some extent, resulted in actions aimed at restricting growing areas to a limit in keeping with legitimate needs for coca and control of its marketing. If measures are not taken during the stages preceding manufacture, later control would be extremely difficult, as experience has shown.

What has happened in recent weeks in the Ypacani areas, where coca plantations are now being destroyed, gives us the first indications of what must be done and the possibilities of turning good intentions into practical applications.

There, peasants have agreed that coca plantations are to be eliminated, but they have asked for compensation, especially in the way of education, health, technical assistance to improve other products and improvements in means of communication. The solution has been relatively easy because there are no large plantations in the area, a total of about 100 hectares with very few peasants having over 1 hectare. In most cases, they had only part of a hectare and said themselves that they only met the needs of farmhands who chew coca. In other areas, however, there will undoubtedly be greater resistance because coca is more widely grown and is an essential means of income for peasants.

In the case of Ypacani, compensation will not be particularly onerous and to a good extent, corresponds to plans which the government already anticipated carrying out within the near future as part of its policy of development and of improving living conditions.

On the other hand, in Yungas and Chapare, the two major coca growing regions, it will be necessary to think about much more costly plans dealing with much greater areas, plans to be carried out in medium-range terms. We do not believe, especially in view of Bolivia's current economic situation, that plans for compensation and crop substitution can be carried out. There are social reasons and questions of justice that prevent one from simply resorting to the job of destroying coca plantations and leaving the peasants to fend for themselves. As painful and alarming as this may be, it is a fact that cannot be ignored.

It is essential to have economic aid and technical assistance, either from interested governments or international organizations. It is urgent that they all be convinced of this. If we do not have such support, the current situation could still be partially alleviated by the good will of national authorities, but we could not go very far and we might therefore risk criticism.

It is fitting to point this out in order to avoid problems that might later arise.

11,464
CSO: 5300/2302

BOLIVIA

ANTIDRUG COUNCIL REPORTS LIMITED MEANS, EQUIPMENT

La Pas PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 May 82 p 10

[Text] Bolivia is fighting a lopsided battle against drug trafficking, using limited resources and obsolete weapons preventing action from being successful in eradicating the evil.

Newsmen invited to cover information on the development of antidrug actions saw the limited means used in such operations and observed the precarious conditions for the physical safety of law enforcement officers and for the movement, transportation and food of police forces.

Last weekend, the National Council for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking began the second phase of the plan to fight the illegal production of coca and cocaine. The operation was designed to discover and dismantle factories, laboratories and storage facilities in the vast Chapare region.

Members of the press, who accompanied the commission headed by Col Raul Gonzalez Ferry, director of the council, were able to see that these operations are carried out under conditions disadvantageous for police. The lack of good means of communication and transportation enables drug traffickers to use more sophisticated means, which often wreck plans aimed at discovering or arresting them.

Newsmen were able to witness such operations. The police are taken in trucks starting out early in the morning, without even backpacks in which to carry their emergency food supply, gun, ammunition and dry rations. In operations carried out a few days ago, the press was told that police officials and officers stayed in the zones in question, living off water and bananas. They had to carry their weapons in one hand and flashlights in the other.

Cocaine Seized

Operations in the second phase included the areas of Eterazma, Isiboro and San Isidro, where 13 factories were discovered and dismantled. Three laboratories were destroyed on Senda Victoria, each having two wells. In Eterazma, there were three factories with three wells; on Senda Bayer, two factories with two wells each; in San Isidro, two factories with a total of four wells; in Isiboro, two factories with three double wells; and in Lauquena, one factory with two wells.

The amount of the drug seized was 8 kilograms 100 grams. The report states that in Chimore, 6 kilograms of cocaine sulfate were confiscated; in Lauquena, Villa Tunari and Senda Victoria, 500 grams in each; 3,350 grams in Senda; and 250 grams near Villa Tunari.

During the operations, 28 persons were arrested and are under investigation to determine their degree of guilt. Council authorities seized 40 drums of coca and burned over 100 drums of coca being ground in the discovered plants.

These operations were carried out by personnel from the Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances, with trained officers.

Council officials have repeated that the means and resources available for this task are extremely limited compared with those used by traffickers. The operations were headed by Col Raul Gonzalez Ferry and Col Carlos Zapata, director of the Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances.

11,464
CSO: 5300/2302

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

COCA CENSUS--The Military Geographic Institute (INSGEOMIL) has announced that it has concluded the census of coca in the country and that the information has been turned over to the National Computer Center (CENACO) for processing. INSEGEOMIL completed the census as the result of an agreement signed with the National Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances within the framework of the general plan being carried out by the government for the replacement of these crops with other products. Gen Hernan Alfaro Cortez, director of INSEGEOMIL, stated that "based on preliminary data, one can conclude that in recent years, coca plantations have increased 300 percent." However, he gave no figures. During the survey, informal interviews were conducted with peasants concerning substitutes for the crops. Opinions were gathered on the plan and on the effects it will have on the economy and agricultural work in the sector. Income would drop substantially because, it was explained, "there is no farm product that can replace the yield of coca. Furthermore, any other crop requires work that is difficult for small farmers." [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 May 82 p 10] 11,464

CROP REDUCTION PLAN--Cochabamba, 25 May (HOY)--It will inevitably be necessary to resort to a 5-year plan to reduce coca plantations if countries in the international community which are affected by cocaine do not lend adequate and systematic aid to the program. This is the salient conclusion of the document signed here by members of the National Council for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking and farm leaders from Chapare. The document emphasizes that at the conclusion of the 5-year plan to reduce coca crops, "production and legal demand will be balanced." Chapare farmers who have coca crops have pledged to lend all respective cooperation for the government's aim of reducing crops of the plant used to make cocaine. Farmers in the tropical region of Cochabamba also believe that the government must undertake vast new programs for other types of products to replace coca and basic local construction in order to make it possible to promote plantations of citrus fruits, bananas, soybean crops, rice and other products. [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 26 May 82 p 5] 11,464

HIGHER COCA PRICE DEMANDS--Cochabamba (HOY)--Peasants and settlers in Chapare are urging the government to authorize a price increase for coca in order to help them meet the high cost of living, "which mainly affects peasants," they say. Representatives of the farmers are now in La Paz for the purpose of persuading the government organizations involved to grant the authorization

resulting in such a price increase for the product used to make cocaine. Current price for the product in Chapare, as set by the government, is 4,000 pesos per load (two drums, 50 pounds each), which farmers want raised to 8,000. Agricultural leaders have reported that coca crops require care and the utilization of fertilizer and other products which are purchased on the local market at high prices. They say that production "is no longer profitable" and that they "cannot even support their families." Officials from the National Council for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking have held meetings with Chapare peasants and settlers but were unable to agree on prices "and consequently, it was decided to go to La Paz to higher levels," it was stated here. In a report on the conclusions of the meetings, coca producers said they resolutely supported execution of the different phases of the 5-year plan to reduce coca crops. However, they say that the government should adjust the price of the product "in order to partially alleviate the economic problems of families living in Chapare." [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 25 May 82 p 5] 11,464

GOMEZ SUES U.S. AMBASSADOR--La Paz, 19 May (LATIN-REUTER)--Former Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez has filed a lawsuit against U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr, who had accused him of engaging in drug trafficking, demanding that the U.S. diplomat supply proof of his charge. In a brief submitted to the court, Arce Gomez said Corr's diplomatic immunity does not excuse him from submitting proof of his accusation. According to Arce Gomez' witness, Jaime Ponce Caballero, Corr supposedly accused Arce Gomez publicly of drug trafficking. The former minister said the diplomat should either prove this or retract his accusation publicly. According to the U.S. television program "60 minutes," the text of which was published by a local paper yesterday, Arce Gomez and other Bolivian officers have also been accused by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency of participating in cocaine trafficking. [Text] [PY192335 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2038 GMT 19 May 82]

CSO; 5300/2312

MEXICO

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR REPORTS ON RESULTS IN STATES

Reduction of 90 Percent Claimed

Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 6 May 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Samuel Alba Leyva, second assistant prosecutor of justice in the nation and national coordinator of the permanent campaign against drugs, claimed that, thanks to the constant action of forces from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and the National Army, drug production has declined 90 percent in the country. The judicial official arrived in this town yesterday to evaluate the results of the action taken by the federal police authorities in their battle against the production of poppies and marihuana, which he described as "magnificent," stating that last month alone, in the Sahuaripa and Cumpas area, 33.4 hectares of poppies which already had a height of 60 centimeters were destroyed.

He said: "A fundamental goal of the government of the republic is to keep up the campaign constantly and intensively, because we know that if we let down slightly the drug production could resume and then our effort would be relatively fruitless."

In addition to reviewing the work done against drug production, it is the purpose of Alba Leyva's tour through the northwestern part of the country to make a detailed reconnaissance of the possible areas where poppies and marihuana may be grown, so as to concentrate there a certain number of fumigating airplanes and helicopters with the goal of not leaving a single plantation undestroyed.

With regard to the escape of drug traffickers from Sinaloa to other states in the northern section of the country, specifically into the mountains of Sonora, Chihuahua and Durango, Alba Leyva gave assurance that 60 percent of the personnel working in the campaign have been concentrated in those locations, and that the action of the Attorney General's office will reach them wherever they go.

He added that, with the discovery of that illegal activity and the termination of it at its base, Sonora has naturally ceased to be a state for drug "traffic" and this is why there are few drug seizures and drug trafficker captures, although the latter are seeking substitutes such as South American cocaine and other psychotropic substances.

He reiterated the fact that the campaign has brought magnificent results all over the country, which has merited for the Mexican Government recognition from the United Nations and other world agencies.

With regard to the disappearance of fixed checkpoints set up by the Federal Judicial Police on highways, the second assistant general prosecutor of justice said that this has happened because they are easily evaded by the drug traffickers, who have information on the sites where they are established. However, they have been replaced by the "mobile units" since these have been proven far more effective owing to the suddenness of their action.

Moreover, Raul Calvillo, director of drug control for the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, claimed that few plantations have actually been destroyed in Sonora, because they are usually located on the border with Chihuahua, and belong to that jurisdiction.

He stressed that poppy and marihuana production has declined considerably on the national level, and hence the success of the campaign has prompted those engaged in this unlawful activity to seek new cultivation techniques, so as to evade the action of the police and National Army.

He disclosed that one of those systems is to reduce the growing areas because, whereas in 1976 areas of up to 2,500 square meters were discovered, at present they do not exceed 450 square meters.

Finally, he noted that the antidrug campaign is focused on the destruction of the plantations before they produce seed, so as to prevent the latter from being used and planted again.

The judicial authorities have visited Tijuana, Mexicali, San Luis-Rio Colorado, Ensenada, La Paz and Hermosillo. Yesterday afternoon they returned to Mexico City.

Editorial Comment

Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 10 May 82 Sec D p 4

[Text] According to the assessment made by the assistant prosecutor of justice of the nation and national coordinator of the antidrug campaign, Samuel Alba Leyva, drug production has declined by 90 percent in the country and has nearly disappeared from the state of Sonora.

The results of the campaign, which the Attorney General's Office and the Army are keeping up constantly, were described as "magnificent."

And, in fact, they are. The battle to curb the growing of poppies or marihuana is one with special features. Drug addiction, although it has declined worldwide, still reaches stratospheric numbers, represented by hundreds of millions of dollars. The American addicts consume about 4.5 metric tons of heroin alone, per year, which, when converted into dollars, are many millions for the poor growers and far more for the drug traffickers.

The charm of drugs does not lie only in the paradise promised to those who escape reality, but also in the large profits produced for those engaged in the dirty business.

As the assistant prosecutor remarked, the campaign to control drugs must be intensive and constant. "If we let down slightly, the drug production could resume and then our effort would be relatively fruitless."

And it has been in many places, because there is no other crop which can compete with drugs in monetary terms. In Thailand, Burma, Turkey, Colombia, Bolivia and many places vigorous campaigns have been undertaken to detect and put an end to the poppy and marihuana plantations. In Mexico, the antidrug operation has been under way for several years. Hundreds of small plots, scattered over the most rugged mountain terrain, have to be discovered. The 2, 4-D, used to defoliate the poppy plants before the harvest, is an expensive herbicide and has to be sprinkled by fumigating helicopters or planes. The forces participating in the campaign often have to withstand shootouts with the growers or traffickers. The risks are real and numerous.

Unfortunately, the method of merely destroying the crops is not the most effective one for drug control. However, it is the one that has the most national and international backing. The UN Fund for Control of Drug Abuse and the United States Government are devoting large sums for programs to eradicate plantations. But the problem is that other fields appear again and the radical solution is never forthcoming. The method should be one of replacing crops, not only destroying the drug crops, but also teaching the farmers to plant other income-producing products.

In any event, the results achieved here in Mexico have been "magnificent." Those responsible for the control have done a stupendous job, which is worthy of praise.

2909
CSO: 5330/82

MEXICO

MOVING VAN USED TO SHIP MARIHUANA

Shipment to Border Seized

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 7 May 82 Sec B p 6

[Text] Marihuana worth 2 million pesos on the black market was seized by Federal Judicial Police forces who, at the same time, captured the drivers of the moving truck in which it was being carried to the Ciudad Mier border, namely, Angel Medina Galeana and Jose Luis Andrade Rodriguez, the guide Gustavo Dominguez Jaime, and the one to whom they were taking it in that town, Adolfo Rios Moreno.

The 1972 model Dodge moving van with Federal Public Service licence plates H-4881, with the trade name Victoria Furniture and Moving, was intercepted by the Federal Police on the Monterrey-Miguel Aleman highway, in the vicinity of Ciudad Mier, and in it they discovered 63 cardboard boxes containing marihuana weighing 465 kilograms, concealed in special compartments.

Angel Medina Galeana and Jose Luis Andrade Rodriguez stated that they were coming from Papanoa, a site in the state of Guerrero, from which they were transporting the marihuana to Ciudad Mier, for which trip they would each earn 5,000 pesos; adding that an individual named Gustavo Dominguez Jaime was the person who had been guiding them from that location.

Dominguez Jaime was arrested and confessed that, riding in a 1976 Ford Maverick car with Nuevo Leon license plates RNV 541, he was guiding the drivers of the truck in which the marihuana was being carried, and that it was to be offered for sale to Adolfo Rios Moreno, who was also arrested.

Yesterday, the case was still in the hands of Comdr Siordia who, in turn, will turn it over to the agency of the Federal Public Ministry headed by Calzada Vejar.

Moreover, the Federal Judicial Police headquarters denied that forces from that entity had made a raid a few days ago at the Quinta Hotel located in Mina, between Juarez and Matamoros, with a tip that armed individuals had gone to that location, and that they had searched all the rooms seeking traffickers in human beings as well as drugs.

Traffickers Jailed

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 May 82 Sec B p 6

[Text] Angel Medina Galeana, Jose Luis Andrade Rodriguez, Gustavo Dominguez Jaime and Adolfo Rios Moreno were ordered officially imprisoned as individuals guilty of a crime against health in the degrees of marihuana possession, transportation and trafficking.

Medina Galeana and Andrade Rodriguez were driving a moving type van and were intercepted by Federal Judicial Police forces on the Monterrey-Miguel Aleman highway, in the vicinity of Ciudad Mier, and in it they had very carefully concealed in special compartments 63 boxes containing marihuana which weighed 465 kilograms.

The police succeeded in arresting Gustavo Dominguez Jaime who, in a 1975 Ford Maverick car with Nuevo Leon license plates ENV-541, had been guiding them from a site known as Papanoa in the state of Guerrero, to Ciudad Mier, where they were to sell the marihuana to Adolfo Rios Moreno, who is also under arrest.

The drugs in question, valued at 2 million pesos on the black market, were to be taken to the United States across the Rio Grande, as they themselves admitted. The moving van driver stated that they had been hired in Papanoa, Guerrero, by some individuals who offered them the sum of 5,000 pesos, and that Dominguez Jaime had been guiding them from the site, so that they could deliver it to Rios Moreno in Ciudad Mier.

The evidence against them is overwhelming, and served as the basis for the order of official imprisonment issued by the third district judge.



Angel Medina Galanea and Jose Luis Andrade Rodriguez, drivers of the moving van type truck in which the Federal Police found 465 kilograms of marihuana; Gustavo Dominguez Jaime, who was guiding them in a 1975 Ford Maverick with Nuevo Leon license plates from Papanoa in the state of Guerrero to Ciudad Mier, where they intended to sell it to Adolfo Rios Moreno.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

ZONAL CAMPAIGN RESULTS--The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic is continuing the battle against the drug traffic indefatigably, and during April it succeeded in arresting and holding for trial 73 persons who were in some way connected with the activities proscribed by law. This statement was made by Hector Aviles Castillo, coordinator of Zone 06 in the permanent campaign against drug trafficking, who noted that five vehicles used for engaging in their activities had been confiscated. He also said that seizures were made of 989 kilograms and 412 grams of marihuana, 785 grams of seed of the same grass and 1 kilogram and 380 grams of poppy seed. In addition, 41 grams of opium gum were seized. Commenting on the destruction of plantations, Aviles Castillo remarked that 737 poppy plantations over an expanse of 160,530 square meters, 25 marihuana plantations covering 1,420 square meters and 11 mixed plantations on 3,000 square meters had been fumigated mechanically. He added that, with the aid of Task Force Condor, 1,202 poppy plantations, 64 marihuana plantations and one mixed one, distributed over 532,633,15,290 and 240 square meters, respectively, were destroyed manually. After providing the statistics, Aviles Castillo stated that the work done by the personnel from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic included the location of a marihuana seedbed the plants in which had reached a height of 50 centimeters, and which was razed to prevent its commercialization. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 9 May 82 pp 1, 6] 2909

CSO: 5330/82

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MARIJUANA RAIDS STALLED WHEN HELICOPTER UNAVAILABLE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 82 p 18

[Text]

THE recent destruction of marijuana throughout the country is not any new exercise, but it had ceased for some time owing to certain problems which include the obtaining of the Ministry of National Security helicopter.

A senior police officer disclosed yesterday that unavailability of the helicopter which was not the only problem was caused through either lack of crew, repairs or service.

He said that hitherto there were raids involving several members of the Protective Services who were wounded by trap guns, and in one case Const. Estaphan Edwards of Mayaro Police Station was wounded.

The Constable was flown to the United States of America where he received surgical treatment, but still suffers from an impediment.

As a result of this impediment, the Police Service Second Division Officers Association wrote the Police Administration commenting on the danger of the lives of policemen involved in the exercise, and even advised on protective gears.

The senior officer said that sometime ago the Police Commissioner, Mr. Randolph Burroughs mounted a series of aerial raids destroying marijuana fields mostly on crown lands in Rio Claro, Biche and the Northern Range.

TRAFFICKING

The Commissioner had announced that he was concerned about the large amount of marijuana seized which was more than required for local consumption and suspected that there was international trafficking involving South American and Caricom countries.

Mr. Burroughs had issued a release about cocaine and drug-related crimes, and the danger of this international trend which included the importation of arms and ammunition into the country.

In an effort to curb the impending explosive situation, the commissioner instituted certain coastal patrol strategies.

The senior police officer

said that there was certainly a lull in these marijuana raids, to facilitate plans and discussions for the spraying of marijuana plantations.

Some of these discussions, he said, were held with personnel from the Ministry of Health and other governmental agencies.

concerned over the effect the spraying will have on the soil, plant life and the villagers who reside in the neighbouring vicinity.

The senior officer disclosed that although he was happy about the success of Mr. Burroughs's exercises, he noted the heavy weather which some officers were attempting to make as though the commissioner was condoning something.

The senior officer said that these officers should stop trying to hide the major crimes from the news media.

He said that although the helicopter was not in operation for some time persons like Inspectors Joseph Bruce and Rudolph Steele are always doing what they could to eradicate the problem on foot.

CSO: 5300/7558

EGYPT

BRIEFS

THREE DRUG SEIZURES--During March, the border guard forces foiled three attempts to smuggle a total of 4 tons of drugs valued at some 40 million pounds. Information obtained by Brig Gen Wahbi Ibrahim Muhammad Habib, commander of the border guard intelligence service, confirmed that drug smugglers had prepared a series of plans to land shipments of drugs in three batches using small floats to carry them to shore or smuggling them inside fishing boats and launches at various times and in various places. Border guard commander Maj Gen 'Ali Faruq al-Sahn gave the order to prepare the necessary plans and stake-outs to pursue the smugglers east of the Sidi Barrani area over various roads and trails and open terrain through the desert and along the seacoast. The first smuggling operation took place on 7 March when the forces, along with an intelligence and security group, succeeded in seizing 26 packages of drugs weighing a total of 1 ton in the al-Ma'adiyah area east of Abu Qabr. The smugglers escaped after releasing the shipment. The second operation occurred on 13 March when the forces were able to seize 5 containers of hashish powder in the al-Anfushi area of Alexandria. The powder, which was to be processed locally after the addition of henna, weighed 1 ton. The forces apprehended four suspects. The last operation occurred on 18 March when the forces succeeded in seizing a Toyota vehicle driven by the smugglers, who were able to escape. The seizure followed a 3-day chase that included an exchange of fire with the smugglers south of the city of Bahij in the Western Desert. Some 2 tons of drugs were discovered. [Text] [Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 82 pp 1, 7] 8591

POWDERED OPIUM--Yesterday, 40 containers of powdered hashish weighing one-half ton and a sack of opium were seized in the al-'Ajami area of Alexandria. The drugs were valued at 15 million pounds. Maj Gen Faruq al-Sahn, commander of the border guard forces, formed the plan to seize the drugs in cooperation with the Narcotics Department in Alexandria. Maj Gen Samih al-Tuhami, chief of staff of the border guard forces, supervised the execution of the plan. The investigation was conducted by Muhammad al-Tawari, first deputy prosecutor of Alexandria. [Text] [Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 82 pp 1, 7] 8591

CSO: 5300/5015

IRAN

BRIEFS

OPIUM, HEROIN SEIZURES--According to a report by the Central News Unit, 11 bags of opium, weighing a total of 80 kg, together with one 45-mm Colt handgun were seized from a smuggler by the personnel of the headquarters for fight against narcotics in Quchan. The aforesaid smuggler together with 11 others smugglers were arrested in the Quchan region and handed over to judicial authorities. Also a quantity of 36 kg of opium were seized from a smuggler by the headquarters for fight against narcotics and the strike squad of the Islamic revolution committee in Tabas. The smuggler was handed over to judicial authorities. The public relations office of the central headquarters for fight against narcotics of the Islamic revolution committee in Mashhad has also announced that in the past 2 days the guards from this headquarters have managed to seize more than 2 kg of heroin and 1 kg of opium from narcotics distributors. [Text] [LD150018 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 82]

PLAN TO COMBAT DRUGS--Tehran, 2 Jun (IRNA)--The latest developments in the warfronts and social and political issues of the country were discussed in the cabinet meeting this morning chaired by Prime Minister Musavi. In the meeting Interior Minister Nateq-nuri presented a plan to combat drug smuggling and narcotics use, which was approved. During the session the cabinet approved allocation of some 635 million rials for various cultural and athletic projects. Donations and gifts including jewelry and gold, given by the people from various cities, were given to the government authorities after the cabinet session. That included some 5 million rials in cash donated by the people of Neyshabur, Khorasan Province. [Text] [LDO22104 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 2 Jun 82]

CSO: 5300/5416

ISRAEL

DRUG USE DATA SAID INACCURATE

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 82 p 3

[Article by Charles Hoffman: "Reports of Pupils' Drug Use 'Distorted'"]

[Text]

A sociologist who conducted a comprehensive study of drug use among high school pupils took the police, the news media and the Education Ministry to task yesterday for distorting the extent of drug use in this age group.

Prof. Yehudit Shuval conducted the study together with Dr. Rahel Ya'avetz in 1979 for the ministry. She told *The Jerusalem Post* that "the extraordinarily high figures quoted by the police and conveyed by the media in a sensational manner are not, to the best of my knowledge, based on any systematic research."

She said that the ministry figures released in rebuttal to the police claims distort the findings of the 1979 study. The ministry stressed that only 2.3 per cent of Education Ministry pupils from grades seven to 12 ever used drugs, while 8.5 per cent of pupils in Labour Ministry vocational schools did so. The study covered only soft drug use, mainly hashish.

Publicizing the average for all grades understates the extent of the problem, she said. The ministry statement omitted one of the study's main findings — that drug use and exposure to drugs rises with age. For example, she said that in the 12th grade, 7.5 per cent of Education Ministry pupils and 15 per cent of Labour Ministry pupils had smoked hashish at least once. Moreover, 32 per cent of the first group and 43 per cent of the second group knew others who had used soft drugs.

The police told the Knesset Education Committee last week that more than 50 per cent of high school pupils had smoked hashish at least once at parties.

Shuval said that while the rates of soft drug use found in her study were low compared to other western countries, "they do not belie the seriousness of the problem. The findings should arouse serious public concern, but not hysteria, which will not contribute to a constructive solution to the problem."

She added that drug use was found among young people of all social groups and places of residence, and tended to occur among those already displaying "problematic behaviour." A "much higher" percentage of young people were exposed to drugs than actually used them, she said.

CSO: 5300/4716

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

CANNABIS FARM RAID--Arraba (Itim)--Police yesterday raided a farm near here and arrested 12 men for growing, smoking and dealing in cannabis. The arrests followed a long police surveillance of the suspects, most of whom would visit the farm late at night. At the farm, owned by suspect Ilan Ramel, police seized cannabis plants and implements used in smoking marijuana. Ramel was remanded into custody for 10 days by the Acre Magistrates Court. Nine others, from the villages of Arraba, Sakhnin and Deir Hanna, were remanded for periods of from 10 to 15 days, and two suspects were released after questioning. Police say charges will soon be preferred against all the detainees. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 82 p 3]

CSO: 5300/4716

IVORY COAST

BRIEFS

ARREST OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS--A drug traffic between the Ivory Coast and France through a group of Senegalese was discovered this week by the customs officers of Paris-Boissy airport following the seizure of 28.9 kg of cannabis, it was learned Saturday from a French police source. Two Senegalese, Mouhamadou Diop, 39 years old, and PAPA SECK, 33 years old, transported from Abidjan two suitcases full of drugs. When arrested in Roissy, they implicated three of their compatriots residing in France: Papa Tall, 27 years old, presented by them as a silent partner, Amadou Fall, 30 years old, and Ibrahim Diallo, 37 years old, who served, they said, as retailers. The five men were presented on Friday to the Public Prosecutor's Department of Bobigny (Parisian suburb). [Text] [Brazzaville BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'ACI in French 24 May 82 p A 5]

CSO: 5300/5785

SEYCHELLES

SOMALI DRUG SMUGGLER GETS EIGHT YEARS IN JAIL

Victoria NATION in English 3 Jun 82 p 7

[Text]

A SOMALI driver was sentenced to eight years in jail and a R 10,000 fine on Tuesday for illegally importing dangerous drugs, and to six years in jail, to run concurrently, for illegal possession.

Despite an appeal for leniency by 27-year-old Abdissalaam Ali Mohamoud and his lawyer Mr Bernard Georges, who said the accused had a young wife and three small children in Somalia depending on him for a living, Chief Justice Seaton said gravely, anyone who traffics in drugs in Seychelles should not be surprised that his sentence is harsh".

Mohamoud, who was employed in Tanzania, was arrested at Seychelles International Airport on March 14, this year when a customs officer found over seven kilos of cannabis hidden in several large "Africafé" coffee tins he was carrying.

The cannabis, made up of dried, crushed leaves, cut stems, seeds and flowering parts, was hidden in plastic

under thin layers of coffee powder. Several other tins had only coffee in them.

The customs officer claimed in court, to Mohamoud's denial later, that the accused had told him he was bringing the coffee for friends in Seychelles.

Mahamoud, who pleaded not guilty, testified that he did not know that the tins contained drugs as he had been asked to carry them to Seychelles by a businessman, Mohamed Hassan Jama, who was to meet him here.

Police waited in vain at the airport here for Jama to turn up on the day he was supposed to arrive.

No other luggage

The fact that Mohamoud had no other luggage, not even toilet articles, only US \$ 100 and no definite place to stay despite arriving here for a week or more also helped, among other things, to sway Judge Seaton's verdict against him.

Mr Seaton also found it strange that Mohamoud, knowing his luggage would be searched here, having already visited Seychelles twice before, made no attempt to check if the tins he was carrying did indeed contain just coffee.

"That the accused exhibited no curiosity with regard to what he was asked to carry, beyond inquiring as to the duty payable, is incredible," the Chief Justice said.

Mr Seaton added that the young customs officer who discovered the drugs, Nicholas Bradburn, should be commended.

If Mohamoud does not pay his fine he will have to serve another six months in jail. Despite the total of 14 years imprisonment imposed by the Chief Justice the two terms will run side by side, meaning that Mohamoud will serve, at most, eight years in jail.

SAP

CSO: 5300/5784

TANZANIA

OFFICIAL SEEKS VIGILANCE AGAINST DRUG SMUGGLERS AT EXIT POINTS

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 4 Jun 82 p 3

[Text] THE Director of Criminal Investigation, Ndugu Joseph Lemomo, has appealed to customs and security officials at exit points to be more vigilant against drug smugglers who he pointed out, had devised newer methods of hauling dangerous drugs out of the country.

Ndugu Lemomo told the *Daily News* in Dar es Salaam yesterday that drug addiction was not a serious problem in the country, adding that this had resulted in limited vigilance against drug trafficking at airports and border points.

"This is not a healthy situation. Drugs corrupt social morals, so we would not like to see they are exported to other countries from Tanzania", he pointed out.

He was commenting on reports that two Tanzanians were arrested with substantial amounts of *cannabis* (Bhang) at Seychelles International Airport in March and last month.

According to the Seychelles official daily — *Nation* — one of the culprits, Anthony Namata (19), was last month caught with 620 grammes of the soft drug worth about 12,940/- (93,000 rupees) at street prices. The drug was stuffed in two large packets of Omo detergent.

The newspaper also said one A. Mohamoud, a Somali citizen living in Tanzania,

allegedly tried to smuggle seven kilogrammes of *cannabis* hidden in coffee tins past customs officials at the same airport on March 14.

The paper said Namata pleaded "guilty" to illegal importation and possession of dangerous drugs and was sentenced to three years imprisonment and fined about 695/- (5,000 rupees) by a High Court Judge on May 24.

Failure to pay the fine would lead to an extra six months in prison, the report added.

Seychelles Chief Justice Earle Seaton was expected to pass judgement on the more serious case of Mohamoud last week.

Namata had told the court that he was the son of the Executive Director of the Association of Tanzania Employers, Ndugu Joseph Namata, and that he earned a living as a dress designer, songwriter and as a budding novelist.

His lawyer, Mr. Ravin Allecar, pleaded for leniency from the court apparently because his young client had been asked to carry the two sealed packets to Seychelles by a Dar es Salaam curio dealer, one Ben Kyela.

Kyela, the defence claimed, had assured Namata that customs officers in Seychelles "would not dream" of opening the two packets. Namata was so much worried on being caught that he attempted suicide with an overdose of

aspirin and malaria tablets, Mr. Allecar said.

In his judgement, High Court Judge Andre Sauzier told Namata that Seychelles courts would be "very, very severe" in drug smuggling cases and would not allow *ahiyona* "to get away with bringing such harmful influences into the country.

But for the mitigating factors Namata would get a harsher sentence, the Judge said, adding that the maximum sentence for the offences of which the accused had been convicted was 10 years in jail and about 13,900/- (100,000 rupees) fine.

Ndugu Lemomo said yesterday that they were not aware of both cases, but confirmed that the Seychelles Government had adequate laws against drug smuggling. The mere possession of drugs without valid documents constituted an offence, he said.

"It is less cumbersome to prove unlawful possession... I think that is why we were not consulted" because the Seychelles police had nothing to verify with us", he explained.

Ndugu Lemomo said his department was aware that even trophy smugglers had diversified their tactics and that some of them ground the stuff into powder and hauled it in coffee tins.

"We have reliable information on this" but, as I said, culprits get away with it because of the apparent laxity at our exit points", he said.

CSO: 5300/5783

END