

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Mexico
Narcotics

MEXICO

BRIEFS

SENATOR SEEKS PROBE--Mexico City, D.F., 18 November (EXCELSIOR)--The senator representing Chihuahua, Jose Socoro Salcido Gomez, has requested of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and President De la Madrid an exhaustive investigation of the drug trafficking cases detected in that state, so as to determine possible liability on the part of federal or state officials. "It is very odd that it took so long to find the enormous marijuana plantation on the Bufalo farm, even though it was located in an area with easy access, and sufficient communications facilities," added the legislator, in commenting on the widely publicized case of the 5,000 farmers involved in growing drugs in that locality. He emphasized: "It is also strange that the drug traffickers, harvesters and all those participating in the shipping and operations with drugs in that area worked with complete freedom and for a long time"; noting that, "All this leads us to assume that there was negligence on the part of certain authorities or else their complete participation in the business, because this is the only explanation for the fact that the officials concealed or pretended not to notice the situation." He said: "It is difficult to determine the names of those possibly implicated in the case"; but stressed that it is essential to make an in-depth investigation extending to the final consequences, to determine for sure whether there are any federal or state officials responsible for the problem. He remarked that he had personally sent telegrams to President De la Madrid and to Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez in which he formally requested an investigation of the case. Senator Salcido Gomez added that his concern was shared by his congressional colleague, Diamantina Reyes Esparza, who is also interested in having the case of the marijuana plantations on the Bufalo farm clarified. He said: "We are all agreed that it is essential to combat the drug traffic severely, as well as producers and distributors of drugs, because this is a detrimental practice for the country and the law will have to be applied to those guilty in the specific case of the Bufalo farm without consideration." He concluded by commenting: "The Senate of the Republic will be very attentive to this matter which is of concern to everyone." [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 19 Nov 84 Sec A pp 1, 8] 2909

MARIJUANA PLANTATION RAZED--A marijuana plantation measuring 27,000 square meters and 3,345 kilograms of the same grass were destroyed by the Federal Judicial Police and the National Army on a site located south of the El Cuervo farm in the municipality of Rosario Tesopaco. The foregoing was announced by Sergio

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Lagarda Burgos, regional coordinator of the permanent campaign against drug trafficking run by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. Lagarda Burgos remarked that the plants were found with a density of four per square meters and 1.15 meters tall, in addition to 3 tons being stored in primitive, temporary warehouses, 45 kilograms packed in eight cardboard boxes and 300 kilograms in the drying process, among the brambles in the area. The coordinator said that, during the operations to find and destroy the plantation, none of those responsible were arrested, but that the investigations conducted by the Public Ministry and PJF will continue, in an attempt to capture them and take the pertinent penal action. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 29 Nov 84 Sec A p 6] 2909

SONORA TRAFFICKERS REMANDED--A total of 24 persons were remanded to the first district court by the Federal Public Ministry agency for crimes against health in the degrees of planting, cultivating, harvesting and picking or preparing marijuana, and carrying arms for the exclusive use of the national defense forces. This action was taken in connection with the seizure of 39 tons of the drug by the National Army on the El Wicle communal farm in Huachineras, Sonora, and was reported by Jose Gaston Galindo Lopez, the federal social representative. Of those remanded, eight were incarcerated in the State Social Rehabilitation Center in this town, while a warrant for the arrest of the other 16 was sought, according to Galindo Lopez, who said that, based on data contained in the preliminary probe, they have their domiciles in the state of Chihuahua. Jose Cabanillas Montes, Elias Lucero Parra, Lucio Usbaldo Torresdey Estrada, Adan Jacquez Ceballos, Porfirio Flores Ordonez, Heriberto Molina Urrea, Basilio Marquez Cabrera and Jesus Antonio Fuentes Marquez are the ones whom the troops from the Fourth Military Zone found on the communal farm, engaging in tending the marijuana, as the federal prosecutor noted. The social representative remarked that on the site of the grass seizure the military found in the possession of those now in custody four heavy caliber weapons, including a 9-millimeter submachine gun, an AR-15 light machine gun, a sawed-off 12 shotgun and a 38 super squad gun. The soldiers also seized seven vehicles: two 1970 Fords without plates; a 1984 Ford with (Chihuahua) plates DK-6584; a 1969 Ford with (Chihuahua border) plates 9232-CD; a 1976 Ford without plates; and a 1976 Chevrolet with (Chihuahua) plates DC-4837, all of the pickup type; and a 1979 Ford Bronco without plates. He said that all of the foregoing were turned over to the same court, as well as the weapons. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 24 Nov 84 p 2] 2909

PENALTIES DEMANDED FOR GROWERS--Mexico City, D.F., 23 November (OEM)--The National Peasant Confederation [CNC] has demanded an amendment to the Federal Agrarian Reform Law to penalize small landholders who grow drugs, calling for the immediate turnover to petitioning farmers of the 2,000 hectares planted with marijuana in the municipalities of Bufalo and Aldama in the state of Chihuahua. The CNC Executive Committee, headed by Mario Hernandez Posadas, is of the opinion that the fifth section of Article 85 of the aforementioned law stipulating the loss of entitlement to land for small farmers on divided estates and communal farmers when they have been convicted of growing or allowing the growing of drugs should include small landholders. CNC expressed its

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

indignation at the fact that the best quality land will be used to grow drugs while the country needs staple grains to meet the population's food requirements. It requested that, once the investigation by the Secretariat of Agrarian Reform to determine liability of the owners of properties planted with marijuana has ended, the land be turned over to farmers with safe rights. It asked the agrarian authorities to be inflexible with those who divert the use of land and to release small farmers on divided estates and communal farmers forced to work in the fields in Chihuahua, under a system which, in 1984, recalls the feudal system of exploitation. Finally, it claimed that it was a crime to use plots of land for different purposes, when the country needs increased production in order to reduce its dependence on foreign nations. [Excerpt] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 24 Nov 84 pp 1, 9] 2909

MARIJUANA SEIZED IN COLIMA--Mexico City, D.F., 25 November (LEMUS)--Over 3.5 billion pesos' worth of marijuana was seized today by agents from the permanent campaign against drug trafficking run by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, who captured 17 drug traffickers in the municipality of Cuahuayana in Colima. The Federal Judicial Police, in cooperation with Mexican Army forces, started the operation after three marijuana plantations with an area of 5 hectares had been spotted from the air in the aforementioned municipality. When the federal agents arrived on that site, backed by 19 aircraft, they held two armed confrontations with the drug traffickers, without any casualties. After the agents took control of the situation, they found six large sheds in which 62 tons of marijuana were drying, and 158 boxes of the same drug, already packed, were concealed. They also discovered an additional 3 tons of marijuana seed and large amounts of food, clothing and medicine located in one of the sheds. The plantations which were detected were destroyed manually, while all the stored marijuana was incinerated on the same site. Also destroyed was a hose 3 kilometers long which had been used to irrigate the plantations. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 27 Nov 84 p 10] 2909

OPIUM, POPPIES SEIZED--Mexico City, D.F., 24 Nov (INFORMEX)--Opium gum which serves as a base for making heroin and morphine, and several grams of poppy seed, all worth over 300 million pesos, were seized by Federal Judicial Police agents in Chilpancingo, Guerrero. The drugs were located in a clandestine laboratory in which a subject named Delfino Ollarzabal Gonzalez was captured. The clandestine laboratory was situated at No 16 Francisco Villa Street in the Progreso de Chilpancingo housing development. The accused also admitted to having concealed an additional 500 grams of opium gum in a settlement called Santa Rosa, in the municipality of Coyuca de Benitez, Guerrero. The federal agents subsequently found the drugs. Ollarzabal Gonzalez was placed at the disposal of the pertinent Public Ministry, which was given the evidence of the crime and a 22-caliber pistol which the presumed drug trafficker had in his possession. [Text] [Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 25 Nov 84 Sec A p 12] 2909

MARIJUANA TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--The drug trafficker Catarino Hernandez Hernandez was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months in prison and fined 15,000 pesos by the third district judge, who found him criminally liable for crimes against health. The offenses are marijuana possession, transportation and trafficking, as well as the collection of weapons for the exclusive use of the Army and Navy. Hernandez Hernandez was involved in proceedings 17/984-1, after the Federal Judicial Police arrested him on 20 January of this year at his domicile

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

located at 2909 Antonio Medina, in the Mirador housing complex, and found 900 kilograms of pure marijuana in his possession. The federal agents were waiting for him to leave his residence when, with his son, Miguel Hernandez Rodriguez, he attempted to board a pickup truck in order to drive to the downtown area. During the investigation and questioning to which the drug trafficker was subjected, he admitted to have been engaged in drug trafficking for 3 years. He explained that he had begun with Marcos Salazar, known in the underworld as "El Caterpillar," and with another individual identified as Jose Macias. He said that he would take the marijuana to Minatitlan, Veracruz, that he traveled constantly and that the largest shipment that he had carried consisted of three flat-bed type trucks each with a 4-ton capacity. After having earned a certain amount of money, he managed to become independent, starting his activities on his own; and his first trip was from Minatitlan to Nuevo Laredo, with 50 kilograms. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 30 Nov 84 Sec A p 6] 2909

CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIPS DESTROYED--Leon, Guanajuato, 2 December (EXCELSIOR)--The Federal Judicial Police destroyed seven clandestine airstrips which had been used to bring drugs and merchandise of various kinds into the area illegally. In addition, the customs vigilance was reinforced at this town's airport, on the state's main highways and in Irapuato, Celaya and Salamanca, where the clandestine airstrips were located. The Judicial Police chief, Alejandro Arenas Sanchez, announced that, during the year, foreign goods worth over 300 million pesos had been confiscated. Nevertheless, he admitted that the state has been used merely as a passageway for taking the contraband drugs and goods to other states, noting that only minimal amounts of smuggled goods are left there. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 3 Dec 84 Sec B p 3] 2909

ANTIDRUG ACTION IN SINALOA--Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 10 December (OEM)--The social coordinating agency of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, headed by Dr Manuel Mondragon, has intensified a campaign aimed at parents, teachers and professionals, to report on and prevent any illegal action that would foster drug trafficking and addiction among the youth. This campaign is being conducted concurrently with "Operation Pacifico II," which has been under way in Sinaloa since 30 November. It was remarked that the battle against the "poisoners of the public" would be permanent, as is the "Canador [marijuana-poppo] Plan" being carried out by the Mexican Army, through the Eighth Infantry Battalion in this region. The source of the information noted that, on 8 December, in an unannounced operation, federal agents and Army members destroyed 45 poppy and 34 marijuana plantations in several rural and mountain areas of this state at an early hour. In some instances the marijuana shrubs were up to 3 meters tall. There were over 20 hectares of plantations on which 15 shrubs per square meter had been planted, waiting to be harvested. If the combined volume had been used by the drug traffickers, it would have totaled some 200 tons of grass, a drug which would have commanded a price of as much as 5 billion pesos on the black market. Participating in the work to destroy the drugs were federal agents, a large number of military and 20 helicopters which detected and later fumigated part of the poppy and marijuana plantations. This new action brings the number of plantations discovered thus far this year in the entire state to over 300, many of them having been found in the municipalities of

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Concordia, Cosala, Mazatlan and San Ignacio. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 11 Dec 84 p 2] 2909

MARIJUANA DESTROYED--Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 9 December (OEM)--The Federal Judicial Police commander in Mazatlan, Hugo Rivera Melgarejo, announced that four marijuana plantations found planted in El Quelite were destroyed as part of the activities being carried out in the "Pacífico II" campaign against the drug traffic. Nevertheless, the police chief could not provide the area of the plantations nor the price of the drugs harvested, arguing that the complete report on the matter was not yet available. "We just finished destroying the drugs a few minutes ago," commented the Federal Judicial Police chief in Mazatlan, during the interview that he granted to EL SOL DEL PACIFICO. He also remarked that, with this action, a heavy "blow" had been dealt to the drug traffic in Mazatlan, estimating the value of the drugs destroyed at several million pesos; although it was impossible to arrest anyone connected with the case. In discussing the "Pacífico II" campaign against drug trafficking, Rivera Melgarejo said that there were 60 helicopters from the Attorney General's Office participating, disseminated over the length and breadth of the state, as well as a large number of special agents in complete coordination with the Mexican Army. Dr J. Antonio Sam Lopez, director of that antidrug operation, is heading the latter, obeying direct orders from the attorney general of the republic and the chief of the Federal Judicial Police. The campaign against drugs will bring good results, because the state is being properly "combed." [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 10 Dec 84 p 6] 2909

PILLS SEIZED IN ZACATECAS--Mexico City, D.F., 28 Nov (EXCELSIOR)--This afternoon, starting a head-on battle against the sale and consumption of narcotics in the state of Zacatecas, Federal Judicial Police agents in the town of Fresnillo confiscated over 5,000 psychotropic pills worth 2 million pesos, which were to have been distributed in schools and recreational centers in that municipality. At least 20 sellers of those drugs have been located. Thus far, according to the federal agents in charge of the case, Eduardo Illingworth de Avila has been arrested, with nearly 4,000 Pasadrin pills and over 1,000 of the type called Tafedan in his possession; which were intended for sale mainly among students, at a price of 200 pesos per unit. They disclosed that, in the private residence of the individual presumed responsible, located at No 106 Libertad in Fresnillo, 101 boxes of Captagon and 43 of Ionamin were found at first, and later 21 boxes of Tafedan, were learned of which, unfortunately, had already been distributed among the population. The Attorney General's Office noted that, following the proliferation of narcotics sales in several towns in the state of Zacatecas, an extensive operation was also started to guard and ensure the security of those attending schools and public recreational sites. It was declared that the vigilance would be permanent and, furthermore, that an identification had also been made of those who, currently being indicted, had been supplying narcotics, so that the latter might in turn be sold, primarily to young students. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 29 Nov 83 Sec B p 5] 2909

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

OPIUM, HEROIN SEIZED--Tijuana--Yesterday, the Federal Judicial Police under orders from the first commander of INTERPOL, Miguel Aldana Ibarra, dealt a severe blow to the drug traffic on this border by seizing a kilogram of raw opium gum and 170 grams of heroin with an estimated value of over 150 million Mexican pesos on the black market for drugs, arresting three men and a woman. Those in custody are Enrique Ascencio Lizarraga, aged 32, a native of Tijuana and former owner of the Mi Adelita Hotel, located in the northern section, and of the El Camichi night-club, with his girlfriend, Alicia Chavez Bastidas, aged 34, a native of San Ignacio, Sinaloa, both residing at 129 Volcan Street, in the Jardines section of the Playas de Tijuana housing complex. Also arrested were Emeterio Garcia Valdez, aged 44, a native of La Rosa Morada, Durango, and Hernan Obeso Bedolla, aged 28, a native of Gusave, Sinaloa. The latter were the ones responsible for processing the gum in order to sell it later in the United States. From the investigations conducted by the Federal Judicial Police and based on statements by Comdr Miguel Aldana Ibarra, it is thought that those being held belong to a well organized drug trafficking ring operating in the country; because the purchase of the drugs made by Enrique Ascencio Lizarraga through his girlfriend, Alicia Chaves Bastidas, had been made from Hernan Obeso Bedolla, with an advance payment of 2 million pesos, and the other 2 million was to be paid within a 2-week period. When the deadline for the payment expired, the latter two arrested persons decided to go to the town of Tijuana and look for the two lovers, finding them and demanding the missing payment from them. For this reason, Lizarraga and Alicia Chavez asked for a 3-day extension, because they had been unable to sell the product in the United States. In view of this situation, the Federal Judicial Police became involved in the investigation, first arresting Enrique and Alicia at their residence in Playas de Tijuana, and later arresting the drug processors in a residence located at No 24 Rampa Coronel, in the Herrera housing development. Furthermore, yesterday those in custody were turned over to the Federal Public Ministry so that the legal procedure for the crime of drug trafficking might be continued. [Text] [Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 28 Nov 84 Sec B p 14] 2909

MARIJUANA, POPPIES DESTROYED--Sergio Lagarda Burgos, in charge of the anti-drug activities, announced that, last weekend, forces from the regional coordinating agency of the permanent campaign against drug trafficking, the Federal Judicial Police and the Fourth Military Zone, discovered and confiscated seven marijuana plantations, one poppy plantation and 1,500 kilograms of the first-named drug. First, Lagarda Burgos noted, in the Huijaray creek in the municipality of Rosario Tesopaco, the federal agents found two plantations, one marijuana and the other poppy, covering an area of 6,000 square meters in the case of the former and 1,000 square meters for the latter, the crops of which were destroyed manually. Lagarda Burgos said that, a day later, on a site located 16 kilometers southeast of the same municipal capital, six marijuana plantations on a total area of 2,000 square meters were discovered and destroyed, by spraying with a herbicide the name of which he did not provide. [Excerpt] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 5 Dec 84 Sec A p 2] 2909

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MARIJUANA DESTROYED NEAR COLIMA--Colima, 27 November (NOTIMEX)--Comdr Enrique Chavez Carrillo announced today that the Federal Judicial Police had discovered and destroyed 40 marijuana plantations in the municipality of Minatitlan and in sections of Michoacan near the Colima border. The police chief noted that, during the operation (which lasted 4 days) over 100 tons of drugs planted on nearly 200 hectares, where there were at least four camps "like the ones found recently in Chihuahua," were incinerated. Arrested in the operation were 45 individuals, most of them farmers who had apparently been tricked into working on the marijuana harvesting, according to Chavez Carrillo. During the action, which was part of "Operation Pacifico," the Federal Judicial Police had the assistance of 500 Army forces, 25 backup personnel from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and local security corps, as well as the use of 12 ground transport helicopters. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 28 Nov 84 Sec B p 5] 2909

SINALOA MARIJUANA FIELDS DESTROYED--Guasave, Sinaloa, 25 Oct--Judicial police agents have destroyed 68 hectares of marijuana planted in the La Brecha and El Naranjo Ejidos. The police destroyed 18 hectares in La Brecha and 50 in El Naranjo. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Oct 84 p 23 PA]

CSO: 5300/2010