

Red China Uses Narcotics Trade To Increase Flow of Foreign Exchange

By HARRY FERGUSON
Washington — (AP) — Red China's newest strategy in the cold war is to try to flood the world with narcotics.

Before things become too melodramatic it should be explained there are no Red Chinese agents lurking in the White House bushes trying to slip opium tablets into President Kennedy's breakfast coffee.

What the Chinese Reds are after is foreign exchange — money from other countries which can be used to buy such things as tractors and bulldozers. They have vast farms on which the poppy is cultivated, and from the poppy comes opium. From opium, in turn, comes morphine and heroin and from them stem most of the trouble the Uni-

ted States is having today with drug addiction.

It works like this: Not long ago an agent of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics tipped off government officials in Thailand that if they would go to a certain place at a certain time they would find something interesting. What they found was two tons of opium which they seized.

Takes Devious Route

"The source of this," says Henry L. Giordano, U.S. commissioner of narcotics, "is primarily from Yunnan Province of Communist China. Some of it comes from Burma — the Shan states of Burma — but most of it is moving out of Yunnan Province through Thailand, through Laos, Vietnam into Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and

since 1949, and there was evidence to show that the total over the years was 2,200 pounds of pure heroin. Charles Siragusa, deputy narcotics commissioner, computed the retail value of it at \$360 million.

Next to a Central Intelligence agent operating behind the Iron Curtain, a Narcotics Bureau man is in more peril than any employee of the federal investigative bureaus. Sometimes he is dealing with men half crazed by drugs. His assignment is not only to investigate but bring in the evidence, and that means he has to infiltrate the underworld and stay underground until he can get a peddler to sell him some narcotics. Some agents stay underground for as long as 18 months.

Spectacular Results

Sometimes the results are spectacular as in what the bureau calls "The Case of the Guatemalan Ambassador." It resulted in the largest single seizure of heroin in the history of the Narcotics Bureau. George H. Gaffney, now as-

stant to the narcotics commissioner, was in charge of the New York office and led the agents who finally smashed the ring. He started out on a tip from Marseilles, France, where agents regularly reported large shipments of heroin were en route to New York. The problem was that the shipments never seemed to arrive, or at least not through all channels the agents checked.

Somebody started going over the passenger lists of the planes and ships arriving in New York from Europe. It developed that a man named Mauricio Rosal had been making frequent flights to New York. It also developed that he was fully accredited as the Guatemalan ambassador to Belgium and traveled led on a diplomatic passport which made him immune to search and seizure.

Trailed Suspect

On Oct. 30, 1960, Rosal landed at Idlewild Airport from a Pan-American jet liner. Gaffney watched him do it and found out that the am-

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found 160 pounds of heroin worth about \$4 million. A court ruling that diplomatic immunity did not apply in this case because the ambassador was not accredited to the United States made it possible to indict Rosal and he now is serving 15 years in prison. Gaffney found something else in the suit cases — \$28,000 which was Rosal's fee for a transatlantic flight.

(Next: The addict and how he gets that way.)

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To dry up narcotics smuggling the clothing of every person and every piece of baggage that goes through the nation's ports and airports would have to be searched. Everybody — airline pilots, stewardesses, tourists, sailors from all ships and even foreign diplomats — would have to be considered guilty until proved innocent. Every piece of mail from abroad would have to be opened. It is small wonder that the Treasury Department estimates only five per cent of the drugs smuggled in this country are seized at the port of entry.

Small Federal Budget

The Federal Narcotics Bureau has an annual budget of about \$5 million, and that practically makes them paupers in a city where an agency dealing in millions instead of billions automatically becomes a second class citizen. It can deploy only 287 agents in this country and abroad, although it works closely with state agencies, local police and the customs agents.

The fantastic profit to be made out of narcotics in this country enlists the best brains of the underworld. Recently the bureau broke up a ring that had been smuggling drugs into the United States

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