

The heroin epidemic and Brzezinski's 'Islamic friends'

by Chris Curtis

In November of last year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency issued a classified report warning that the United States will be hit by a flood of high grade heroin as the suddenly mammoth opium crop in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan is harvested. This heroin epidemic, described by authorities to be 2,000 times worse than anything this country has ever seen, is expected to hit full force in major U.S. cities by mid-summer. Already heroin from the so-called Golden Crescent of Southwest Asia has overwhelmed Western Europe. Heroin deaths in West Germany alone have doubled in the first three months of 1980. According to law enforcement sources, the new, dangerously high-powered Mideast variety has begun to show up on the streets of several American cities.

The threat of a heroin epidemic of almost unimaginable proportions is shocking enough, and there is no doubt that the DEA report should be taken seriously. But equally striking are the questions the report does *not* answer. First among these is the relationship between National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and the "Islamic fundamentalists" who are churning out this high-powered opium.

Prices down, deaths up

EIR investigators reviewed the agency's intelligence assessment and initiated an independent probe of the heroin danger. Here are our findings.

According to the DEA report, titled after an intelligence-gathering project known as "Operation Cerberus," the latest opium crop from the Golden Crescent totals 1,600 metric tons—more than double the record-breaking 1978 crop from this same area and almost four times the 1979 opium harvest from the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia. The Golden Crescent haul is so enormous that it has driven heroin prices in West Germany down to \$25-30,000 per kilogram, compared to the equivalent price in the United States of close to \$200,000. The street-level purity of this new batch of "smack" has also soared to upwards of 60 percent. In cases where this heroin has shown up in the United States, such as in Boston and New York, purity has risen from the 2-6

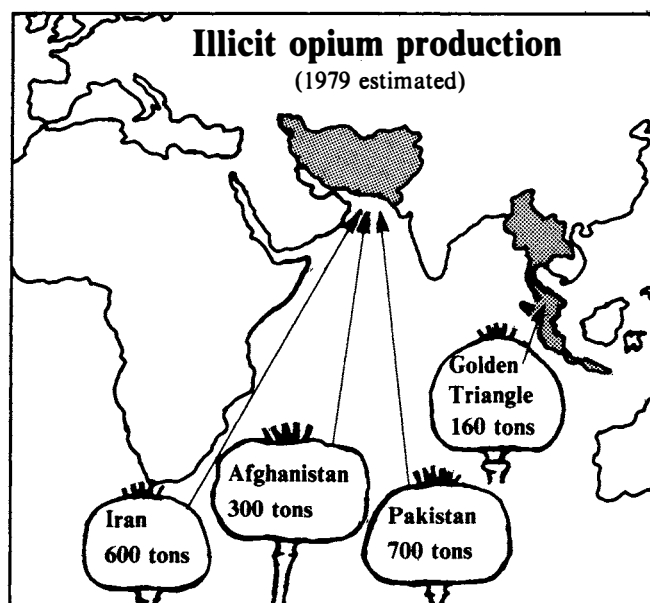
percent range up to 10 and 15 percent. There have been cases of 60 percent purity in New York street "dime bags" in recent months.

The combined effect of falling prices and climbing purity means that heroin is on its way to becoming a "popular" narcotic with a near-total rate of addiction. There are no "casual" users at 60 percent purity. Even more alarming are reports that the new Golden Crescent heroin is being refined in such a way that it can be smoked, which would allow even broader consumption by removing the stigma many potential users have of injecting the drug. Boston authorities are already predicting that by June, street marijuana will be laced with Mideast heroin.

The *EIR* investigating team concluded that the "profile" of the heroin wave, both quantitatively and qualitatively, indicates that it is *designed* to cripple as large a segment of the American population as possible.

Who is responsible?

The best-selling book *Dope, Inc.*, published two years ago by a team of investigators commissioned by *EIR*



contributing editor Lyndon LaRouche and appropriately subheaded *Britain's Opium War Against the United States*, established that the entire international network of narcotics traffic, from cultivation to street-level "marketing," is controlled by a cartel of major banking houses, mining companies, insurance firms, and other corporations centered in London and New York, with subsidiaries in Montreal, Hong Kong, and Bangkok. A partner in this traffic is the government of the People's Republic of China. Yet the Carter administration, through Attorney General Benjami Civiletti and the "guidelines" he imposed on the DEA, has conspicuously avoided any mention of this international drug cartel, much less taken action against it.

The White House has not only covered up avenues of investigation in this direction, but there is evidence that it is directly involved in promoting this opium boom. The *EIR* has established that self-styled Afghani "rebel leader" Zia Khan Nassry is a top figure in the heroin trade. An American-born graduate of the Harvard Business School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Nassry admitted to *EIR* last January that his rebels finance their activities through the cultivation of opium. He further acknowledged that he is in direct contact with the Khomeini regime in neighboring Iran, and is a relative of Pakistani dictator Zia. It is public knowledge that Brzezinski has collaborated with the Chinese Maoists in supplying arms and equipment to Nassry. Earlier this year Brzezinski even posed for photographers with some of these weapons. Is opium the payment for Brzezinski's arms deal?

Khomeini's partisans in Iran, the second largest source of opium in the world, have been characterized by Brzezinski as America's "allies" against the Soviet Union. *EIR* discovered four months ago that Brzezinski's "allies" maintained an official intelligence liaison, one Captain Setoudeh, stationed in an office adorned with Khomeini portraits at the Office of Naval Research annex of the Pentagon. Three of Setoudeh's compatriots were arrested in Los Angeles last fall for smuggling 35 pounds of uncut heroin—hidden inside the frames of portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini.

It is also no coincidence that Pakistan has become the world's largest poppy producer since Zia, another of Brzezinski's Islamic "allies," overthrew the anti-drug government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The hand of the Chinese Maoists is also clearly visible in the coming heroin plague. While the DEA study fails to draw out this connection, the sudden increase in Afghani-Pakistani opium production coincided with the completion of a new highway linking the western provinces of China to the opium region. The highway has also served as the principal arms supply route for Zia and Nassry. One retired U.S. narcotics investigator has identified the Chinese highway as the most likely transit route

for thousands of gallons of acidic anhydride, the chemical needed for processing opium gum.

Reining in the DEA

Who has reined in the DEA to prevent it from investigating this evidence? Again the trail leads to the White House. An agency spokesman told *EIR* that satellite and aerial photoreconnaissance would indeed show "poppy fields and mule trains" throughout the Golden Crescent, and would probably show drug-involved truck convoys along the Chinese highway. But, he said, "we are not allowed to do that." It is also known that Attorney General Civiletti's Justice Department has curbed domestic DEA intelligence gathering on grounds that it infringes on the "civil rights" of suspected traffickers. "We have no way of telling how much drugs are being consumed" as a result of these restrictions, another DEA source said.

What has been the Carter administration's response to evidence that the heroin flood is a carefully planned assault on the United States? Malthea Falco, the State Department's "drug expert," testified before Congress last fall that the skyrocketing of opium production in the Golden Crescent is the result of the *absence* of any governmental control and that the new Islamic movements in the region have nothing to do with it. Not surprisingly, Ms. Falco is a member of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, NORML, which is financed by the drug-promoting magazine *High Times*.

And then there is the revelation earlier this month that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has "revised" the list of commodities it intends to stockpile for such contingencies as nuclear war or some other "national disaster." Included among the revisions is a 40 percent increase in opiates—from the presently stockpiled 72,000 pounds to 130,000 pounds. Purchases of such a remarkable quantity of opiates could begin as early as 1981 and conclude in 1983, according to a FEMA spokesman. This means that within a two-year period, the federal government will be buying up the equivalent of 250 to 300 metric tons of raw opium—more than twice the 1979 crop of all of Southeast Asia.

All evidence suggests that the almost overnight heroin boom, the upsurge of Brzezinski's medieval Islamic fundamentalism, the sudden prominence of FEMA and its announced dope-stockpiling plan, and the rapid slide into what the New York Council on Foreign Relations champions as "controlled disintegration," are part of what has been identified by this magazine as the Aquarian Conspiracy. There is no coincidence in the fact that the same Carter administration that is prepared to send the nation to thermonuclear death over Southwest Asia is also willfully implementing a policy of murder and mendicide against the American people.