

Europe faces growth of Dope, Inc.

Drug traffic from the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong into Europe has not generally been at the same epidemic levels as into the U.S., but market analysts for "Dope, Incorporated," the network which runs the \$200 billion-a-year world drug business, are stepping it up. As a result, drug consumption and all that accompanies it, is on the rise across the Continent.

In Italy, more than 100 young people have died from heroin overdoses, impurities or dirty needles so far in 1979. This is up from the 43 deaths that occurred in all of 1978. Renalto Altissimo, the Liberal Health Minister in the national coalition government, has officially proposed a "humanitarian" solution: stopping accidental deaths by having the state administer the heroin business. He would have the national government deal out free heroin to certified addicts, whose fix would be paid for by the national treasury.

The heroin business is booming so fast that there is

now a mafia war for its control. Eight persons were shot to death in a Milan bar on the evening of Nov. 2 in a massacre whose main target was Antonio Prudente, a rising Milan mafia boss who specialized in drugs and kidnapping. The other victims were friends or business associates of Prudente, and the bar was a known mafia meeting place.

The Pot Party

The Radical Party, a collection of freaks who for years espoused the cause of every social deviation imaginable, have taken up the banner of marijuana decriminalization for "humanitarian" reasons similar to Altissimo's. They are outraged that Italian youth are jailed for smoking "harmless" marijuana and hashish, and are staging "smoke-ins" in the piazzas of every major city. In last summer's elections, after years of oblivion, the Radicals ran a well-funded media campaign and landed

'Society cannot compete with drugs'

The following is excerpted from the article, "No Society Can Compete With the Immediate Pleasure of Drugs," by Dr. Gabriel Nahas, which appeared in the Oct. 2 issue of the Italian newspaper, La Stampa.

Today the hypothesis is that narcotics, acting on the neuro-physiological mechanisms of the brain's rewards system, provoke bio-chemical alterations associated with sensations of pleasure which are transmitted to the central nervous system: the chronic use of a drug could thus compromise the free play of mental faculties and condition a behavior oriented to rewards and the attainment of "chemically provoked" pleasure.

The stimulation of the centers of pleasure and well-being is associated also with the creative force, to mystical experience, to discovery, to all the activ-

ities which ennoble man. One understands, therefore, what danger drugs represent: they permit man to obtain an internal satisfaction without the effort of conquest. The adolescent whose pleasure center is stimulated prematurely by drugs—before, that is, he has been able to discover other sources of pleasure—is particularly vulnerable.

A real trap, which the youth cannot comprehend and whose consequences he cannot foresee: the centers of well-being will be constantly less stimulated by the same doses of drugs; little by little a tolerance to narcotics is developed, leading to the use of stronger and stronger doses; the same mechanism leads toward heavier drugs. The brain centers, finally, saturated with drugs, can no longer respond to physical or intellectual excitement.

It is obvious that, under such conditions, only the prevention of drug addiction is an effective safeguard for society and the individual. No society can compete with the immediate satisfactions produced by narcotics. Here is the great danger of drugs: to remove man from the tasks that can give him a similar reward at the price of an effort.

5 percent of the vote and a few Parliamentary seats.

The response to these drug-glorification campaigns was launched Oct. 5 at the founding of the Italian Anti-Drug Coalition in Milan. There, 150 attendees of the founding conference signed a telegram to Minister Altissimo denouncing his free-heroin proposal and threatening to remove him from government.

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) has yet to make a serious and energetic commitment to ending the drug plague. While it has long maintained a policy of hostility to illegal drugs parallel to the party's collaboration against terrorism with the ruling Christian Democrats, this policy is based on the commitment to morality and progress dominating the party's trade-union base. The youth membership, in the absence of a conceptual battle by the PCI's leadership emphasizing the threat to the creative powers of the mind, is very vulnerable to the kind of campaign being fought by the Radicals.

This ambivalence showed in the Oct. 20 conference in Milan sponsored by the PCI on drug abuse. Keynote speaker Faustino Boioli, a PCI provincial councilman and health expert, called for an internationally coordinated campaign against both "controlled administration" of heroin and against marijuana and hashish decriminalization. His reasoning was that "drug multinationals," organized along the lines of "the most rational modern business methods," would not be hurt in the slightest if "liberalization" measures were passed.

On the other hand, a PCI faction which advocates promoting "humanitarian" conditions for narcotics consumption told the conference lurid stories about drug overdoses and insisted that "something must be done" along the lines prescribed by Health Minister Altissimo to prevent heroin overdosing.

This approach contrasts sharply with that of the European Labor Party. The ELP, which is at the center of the "Stop Dope, Inc." fight in Italy, provided the inspiration for the Anti-Drug Coalition and the methods it uses. Its International Bulletin, "Who Finances the Drug War," is in its second printing and has sold over 500 copies since early October.

The bulletin lays out in minute detail which banks, insurance companies, real estate firms, politicians and businessmen internationally sit on the board of directors of "Dope, Inc."

In West Germany

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the drug plague has reached proportions similar to those in Italy. Social Democratic and Free Democratic deputies in the national parliament, the Bundestag, have introduced measures calling for a crackdown of the type West Germany launched against terrorism. Meantime, Interior Minister Gerhard Baum is in Yugoslavia, discussing methods of stopping drug flows into the Federal Republic from that country.

America vs. Britain over the drug trade

In its Oct. 1-15 issue, the French journal Tendances et Conjecture published this analysis of the fight in the United States over the attempt by British drug-linked banks to take over U.S. banks. The article, "English and American Banks Fight Over Narco-Dollars" by Jacques Houbart, uses as its major reference Dope, Inc., the bestselling book published by the New Benjamin Franklin Publishing House in 1978. Its publication at this time is significant; the bimonthly magazine is an economic analysis journal linked to the Gaullist faction in France.

The fight is not between American and English bankers. The economic retreat of Great Britain and the weakening of its industrial productivity have not cut into the imperial punch of the City, which up to the eleventh hour intends to use its monetarist trump card. Last May, the Joan of Arc of New York, Superintendent of the banking authority of the State of New York, raised the flag of the revolt, opposing the takeover of American banks by British establishments. The issue is all the more delicate in that the establishments in question are accused of practicing the laundering and recycling of "narco-dollars" on a large scale.

By opposing the British takeover of important sectors of their banking activity, the Americans are confronting fearsome adversaries. Not only does the City of London play a strategic role in the movement of Eurodollars ... but it is especially the world capital of "off-shore" financing, the mecca of "fiscal paradises," which under the control of the City, drains some rather unorthodox liquidities.

Among the 10 main "off-shore centers," Panama is the only one which is not under British control. Of the three banks which have made buying proposals—the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp., which wants to take over Marine Midland Bank, the Standard Chartered Bank, which wants to control the Union Bank of California, and National Westminster which is also targeting the UBC—the first two dominate operations in Hong Kong, the Far East banking capital.

After the March 16 approval of the projected operation by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, a lively polemic began between the President of the Fed and Superintendent Siebert, the latter stressing the danger represented by possible foreign pressure on the monetary policy of the United States. Certain American circles indicate in effect that the list of