

03SA 7550/Kopsel 15

THE TURKISH
PROGRAM
HAS BEEN
A COMPLETE
SUCCESS





**THE TURKISH
PROGRAM HAS
BEEN A COMPLETE
SUCCESS**



THE TURKISH

PHYSICS

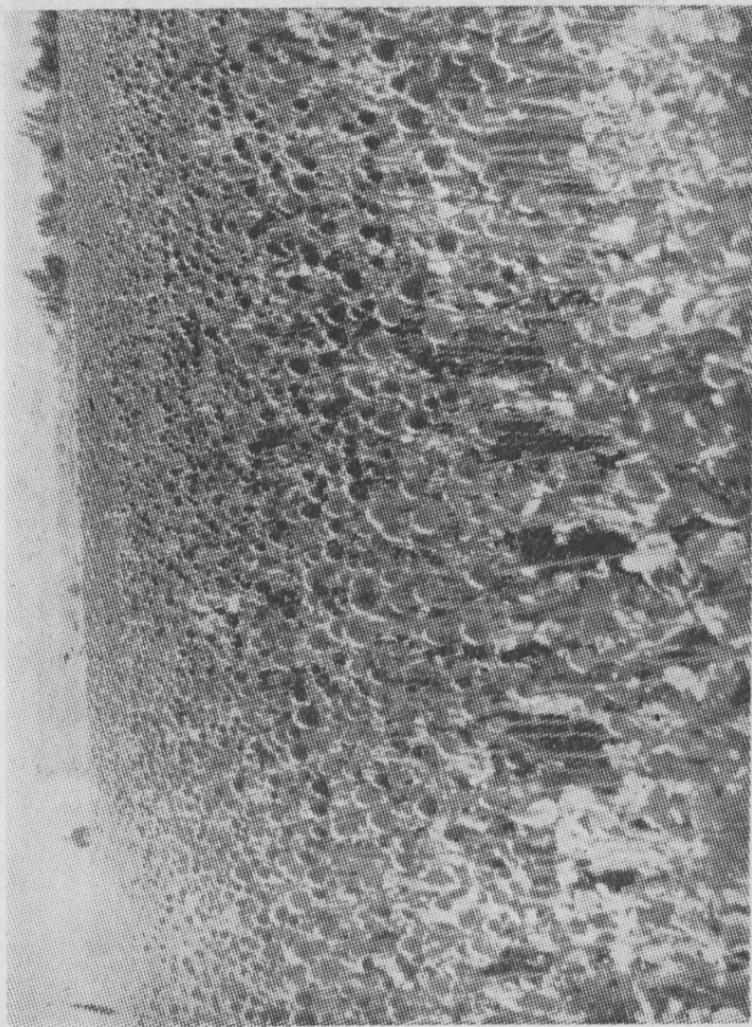
RESEARCH

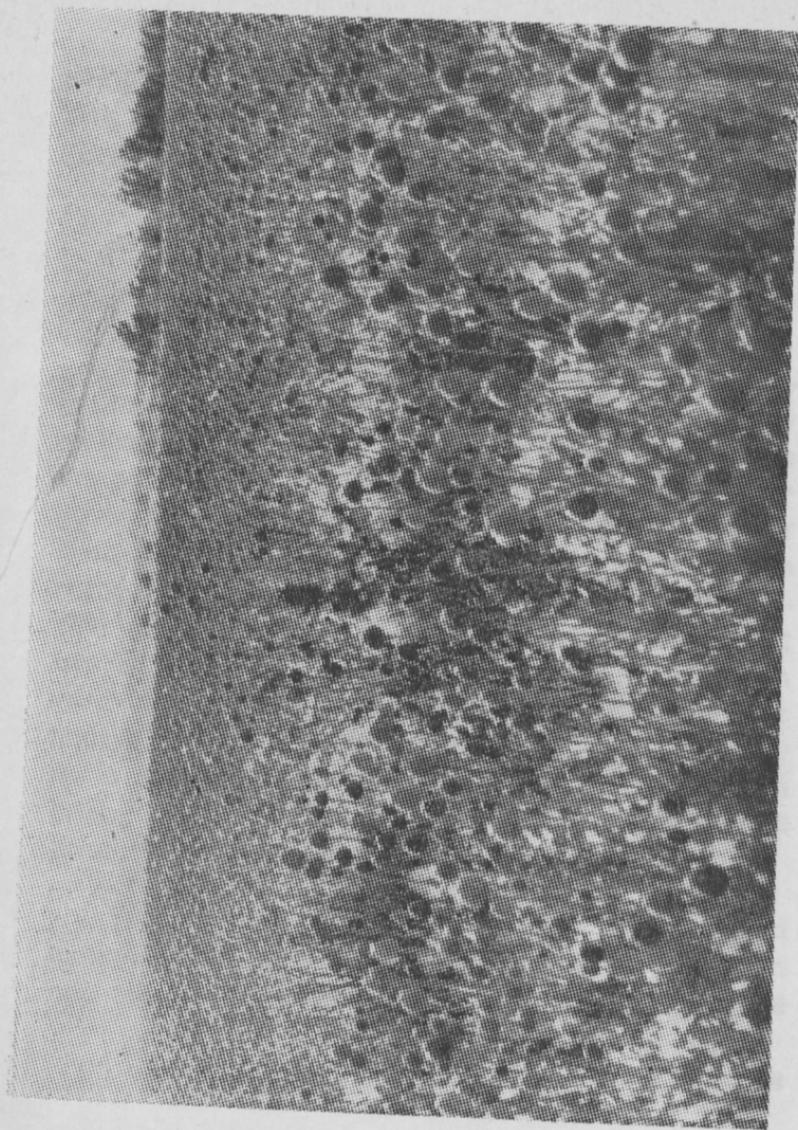


03 SA 7550(15)











**EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL**

JULY 14, 1976

(Speech delivered by Ambassador Dr. Jacobus
Gilbertus de Beus, Executive Director of the U.N.
Fund for Drug Abuse Control - UNFDAC).

When the Turkish Government decided to resume the poppy cultivation or to allow again the poppy cultivation, there was of course a worry both on the part of the Turkish Government and of other governments that this might be an opportunity for illicit traffickers to try and get hold of some of the cultivation in Turkey. In order to prevent any diversion of the opium poppy harvest to the illicit market, the Turkish Government made as condition very strong control measures. The cultivation was limited to seven provinces, the farmers had to apply for a licence, they were not allowed to lance the poppy and they were obliged to sell their total product to the Turkish Government.

The Turkish Government applied to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for support and the fund decided to give this support because



we thought it was a very courageous endeavour. If it succeeded it would be of tremendous value to Turkey and to the whole world.

The support which the UN Fund gave took different forms such as, vehicles, particularly jeeps - I think we gave 76 jeeps for the gendarmery -, a telecommunications system to enable the gendarmery to communicate by radio, support for building of storage facilities and other equipment.

It was a courageous decision because the system had never been applied like this before on such a scale. And now after the system has been in operation for more than a year everybody is asking «does it work»? And this is the reason why we are here. The Turkish Government has arranged for us to have the opportunity to look at the program in operation at the moment when opium poppies are flowering, growing and being harvested.

We have come now, the three of us, each representing one of the organisations which deals in the UN with narcotics. If I may summarize; Prof. Reuter is the President of the International Narcotics Control Board which is an international body which has to verify whether the governments which have

signed different conventions are adhering to these conventions. Dr. Ling is the head of the Division of Narcotic Drugs in the UN Secretariat which is the main executive body which executes programs dealing with drug abuse control. And I am the executive director of the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which is a voluntary fund of contributions brought together by about sixty governments in the world to see which projects, which programs are worth financing and then giving their financial support for such programs.

We have now made a trip through Turkey and we have been able to look at all the different phases' of the program.

We visited the fields where some were flowering, others were producing fruit and in some cases where the fruits were being harvested. We visited buying centers, finally we visited in İzmir the storage facilities from where all the product is being exported. We have had in the fields the support and the help of the governors of the main provinces concerned, we have been able to talk to the farmers in the different areas where poppy is being grown and so we think we have a complete picture of the

situation. And so I think we feel solidly entitled now to come to a conclusion and that's what will interest you most, and the conclusion is that the system definitely works.

We had that impression already before, because whenever illicit opium comes up in the illicit market we usually are informed about it and from all the evidence we had from all over the world there has been no opium at all from the Turkish 1975 opium harvest.

I can truthfully say therefore that **this Turkish program has been the biggest and also the most successful program which we in the UN have supported so far in the narcotics field.** The biggest because the total harvest of 5800 tons of poppy straw has been prevented from any leakage or diversion to the illicit market. This is a very important result not only for Turkey but also for many other countries such as Western European countries and the United States of America which would have suffered from any leakage to the illicit market.

The Turkish Government—and we will support them in that—will try to make the controls even more stringent next harvest. The support for the coming

year which has already been negotiated will come to about 2.5 million dollars. The main part of that, nearly 2 million dollars, is for the provision of an aerial inspection system. It used to be called the «Compass Trip System» but now it has a new name that is called «Mops System». The system consists of two aeroplanes; one reconnaissance plane which detects areas to be inspected and the second plane which then flies over the fields very low with a multispectral camera, a camera with 4 lenses. These cameras with 4 lenses take pictures of the fields and develop the picture and then in the developed picture you see as red spots wherever the poppy plants are grown. So it is a preventive system, we prevent that opium poppy can be cultivated in areas outside the licenced field.

The system is being applied at the moment with success in Mexico. Therefore the Fund has arranged of inviting two Turkish experts to go to Mexico to see the working of the system on the spot. These experts have come back, satisfied that the system is working but they will apply it in Turkey with some improvements which have been made in the meantime. This system will now be installed in Turkey, I

think the advance mission has already arrived these days in Turkey to install the system.

In addition to that we have negotiated a whole list of equipment which will be given to the Turkish Government to support the program. Again mainly jeeps, telecommunications and other equipment which is necessary to support the program.

So in conclusion, I'd like to say that, we are convinced that the system is working and no opium has come out of last harvest from Turkey and that we will continue to support the system and then we are very grateful to the Turkish Government for having given us this opportunity to see the system in operation, in practice.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Question : What are your impressions about the control measures on the poppy cultivation in Turkey?

Answer : Whenever I visit a government, and I visited about 20 of them already this year, I always emphasize that **the Turkish program has been a complete success.** In addition to that Dr. Ling of the Products Division is now preparing a film in

cooperation with the Turkish Govern ment on the Turkish program. (Dr. de Beus)

2. Question : The Greeks have raised an unjust and baseless propaganda campaign, by claiming that opium poppy plant was being cultivated in the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus. This of course has proved to be wrong but what would be your opinion about this campaign as well as your faith and the others' faiths in it?

Answer : They are pure imagination. But if we imagine that we are receiving news coming from Greek Cyprus origin that the case is that a Turkish Cypriot in a foreign country was found with opium, we make a very cautious and strong enquiry in the foreign country to know if it is true or not. And if it is true it may be the opium would be the remaining opium from the time before. It may be also from Afghanistan, from Pakistan. And you can be very sure that when such a delicate question as Cyprus is concerned we are very fully aware that certain parties, certain people can make very loosely accusations. (Prof. Reuter)

3. Question : Did you find the Turkish farmers satisfied with the new system, of the strict control

measures, price policy and the poppy straw process?

Answer : I asked that question to all the farmers we spoke to and the answer was always that they were better off now than they were under the previous system.

4. Question : How would you evaluate the control measures in other poppy producing countries when compared with the control measures in Turkey,?

Answer : There are few countries where the situation is such as it is in Turkey. The possibilities of control are much better in Turkey than in most other poppy growing countries. First of all because the area is concentrated, second it is an area which is easily approachable. There are good roads. In the third place Turkey is a developed country with a good administration and an excellent police, where as all these conditions are mostly nonexistent in other countries where usually opium poppy is being grown in very wild rough mountain areas and in some of those there are not even roads, you cannot even get to them. So it is very difficult to apply

such a strictly controlled system in countries where these conditions do not prevail. (Dr. de Beus)

— In addition to what Ambassador Dr. de Beus has said I'd like to point out that part of the success which has been so good has been due to the excellent enlarged TMO (Soil Products Office) staff, the effectiveness of the gendarmery and very important, the role which the farmers themselves had played.

In all of our visits we have observed without exception a high degree of respect, consideration and understanding by the farmers for the system as well as for the gendarmery and the TMO, and I think that the high quality of controls which the Turkish Government has set must be met by other countries to have as effective a process as the one we have witnessed here. (Dr. Ling)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING
THE OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AND THE
CONTROL MEASURES CAREFULLY ADOPTED
AND METICULOUSLY IMPLEMENTED IN
TURKEY**

Following a two year ban on poppy cultivation, which incurred unnecessary losses the prohibition



was lifted in 1974, and the first crop after the ban was harvested in the summer 1975. Meanwhile, efforts continued to encourage farmers for substitute crops. However, it was well understood that opium poppy was the best cash-crop, as well as its pharmaceutical value as an export commodity. And it became apparent that there could be no substitute to opium poppy.

Turkey, having resumed poppy cultivation, has at the same time, taken stringent control measures to prevent illicit trafficking which is well known to all. She has also declared her readiness to cooperate with the relevant United Nations bodies as well as with countries concerned. The United Nations agencies, responded with assistance plans. Since then this became an exemplary cooperation in this field. Certain requirements of Turkey have been met by the United Nations, especially in the area of strengthening the Turkish law enforcement measures.

Turkey's controlled poppy cultivation still aims at harvesting 20.000 tons of unincised capsules this year. This, in the near future, will be processed in our own alkaloid factory, generating an income as

well as providing semi - manufactured products for world pharmaceutical industries.

In the seven provinces, where poppy cultivation is permitted, some 1863 villages are engaged in poppy cultivation. Turkish Soil Products Office identified 558 acres of cultivation in access which involves 691 farmers, whose access cultivation has been confiscated, whereas 221 acres of land have been illicitly cultivated by 205 farmers who have been prosecuted, and their cultivated plants have been destroyed. No lancing of capsules have been detected.

The institutions dealing with the agricultural aspects of the matter are dealt with by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and its subsidiary organization, TMO (the Soil Products Office). This Office is the main executive agency of the licensing law, control and administration of the cultivation, advising the Government on price policy, purchase. TMO has the monopoly of opium poppy and its by-products, storing and exporting, control of the «straw-process» etc. It has regional agents together with their staff, in all the provinces of Turkey. This staff is especially trained for the cont-



rol and evaluation teams. The number of T.M.O. personnel in the mentioned area is 800. This Office is being reinforced by new personnel, training and equipment, and in addition to the Government's efforts to this end, the United Nations assistance is contributing considerably to its strengthening.

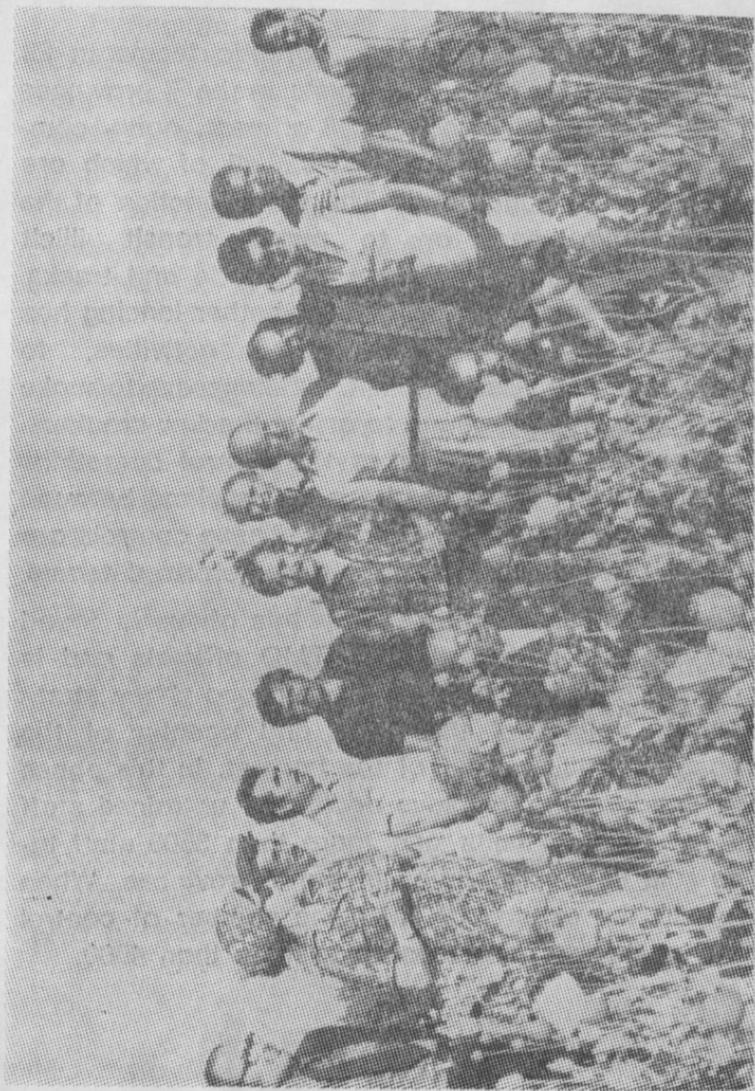
The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare controls the sale, imports and exports of all narcotic drugs. All imports and exports of narcotic items are arranged by «special permission or licensing system» which is supervised by that Ministry. A licence loses its validity in case the permit-holder does not use it within six months. Any kind of misuse of the permit is punishable by law. Pharmacies are obliged to keep record - books for the sale of narcotic drugs where they indicate the quantities, date of sale and the identity of the buyers. They have to notify these records to the Ministry of Health. This Ministry's inspectors regularly check the pharmacies and their records. Buyers are also under control by this method. For all the narcotic drugs, the physicians are obliged to give prescriptions, which are filled in triplicate. Confiscated narcotic drugs are destroyed by the officials of that Ministry before an authorised board of experts and

a proces verbal is arranged. Ministry of Health fills in the questionnaires prepared and sent by the relevant international organisations. It also assumes responsibility for the implementation of the Single Convention and other international conventions to which that Turkey is party.

The Ministry of Interior has two subordinate agencies responsible for law enforcement : The Directorate General of Security and the General Command of the Gendarmerie. The former's responsibility is mainly in urban and the latter's responsibility is in rural areas; thus complementing each other within a parallel framework.

Apart from the special task force in the 7 provinces there are 35 narcotic bureaus of the Directorate General of Security, employing 437 trained staff, of which 93 are different grade officials, 344 police corporals. 20 of these have additional training abroad. There are regular courses on «Methods of fight against narcotics smuggling and the techniques of the smugglers». The narcotic organisations of the police have different vehicles which are mostly equipped with wireless. Test kits and other equipment provided by UNFDAC assistance have contributed a great deal.





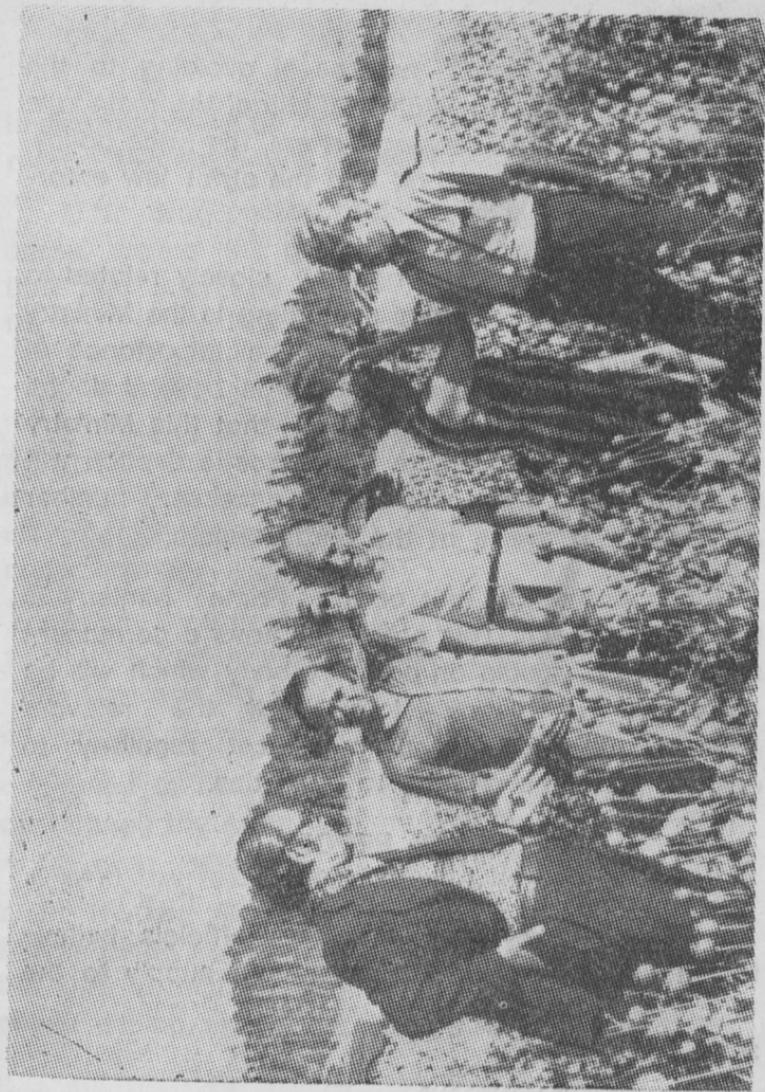
The Gendarmerie has narcotic teams in 29 provinces. In addition to its units in the 7 provinces it employs in these teams 358 officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, all of which are trained for narcotics fight. The main function of the gendarmerie teams are to pursue transit illicit trafficking in the rural areas and roads and tracks, control the poppy fields to see whether lancing has occurred, to trace underground activities, to confiscate and destroy illicit substances, to make the necessary operations to arrest the law-breakers. The gendarmerie undertakes the control operations in two phases. The first phase, takes place between cultivation and blooming periods. These controls are carried out by trained mobile and motorized teams. Excess and illicit cultivation in this phase is found out with the cooperation of TMO officials and is confiscated and destroyed. The second phase starts with the falling of the petals and ripening of the capsules until the end of the harvest. In this phase the gendarmerie employs additional untrained staff to reinforce its units and more than 3500 staff takes role in the operation in the 7 provinces. When we add the experts of TMO, the number of control staff at this stage comes up to more than 4000.

During the last year it was realized that transit trafficking should also be taken into consideration more carefully and therefore the Gendarmerie has decided to form new narcotic teams in four additional provinces, mainly on the transit routes. Two of these provinces are in the south-east, near the Syrian border, namely Mardin and Muş, and the other two are in the west, namely Bursa and Sakarya.

An aerial surveillance program with the United Nations assistance is under way. This project called «Compass-trip» or «Multispectral Opium Poppy Sensor Project» is expected to go into operation early next year. Presently the Gendarmerie has its own «flight teams» which undertake the task of aerial surveillance and patrol.

The UN assistance has had its effective contribution also in the telecommunications network. Presently in Afyon province this system is operating and it has facilitated to a considerable extent the control mechanism. The system is being extended to the other provinces in the region. We are also thankful for the 28 vehicles to be provided this year by UNFDAC to the Gendarmerie.





In the last year's success of avoiding to the maximum extent, the illicit trafficking, the main role was played by the licensing system, the price policy, the straw process method and the strict law enforcement measures.

Another Government agency, closely related to the fight against narcotics smuggling is the Ministry of Customs and Monopolies. The importance of customs control at the borders is beyond doubt. Presently we have been informed that this Ministry was reorganizing itself, that a narcotic section will be established which will employ necessary number of narcotics experts at the border posts.

A coordination unit at the Prime Ministry is being established. This office will have a permanent secretariat and also an advisory body which will be composed of representatives of the relevant executive agencies and will meet regularly to discuss problems relating to narcotics.

PRESS REPORT

July 29, 1976

Afyon, Turkey, AP - Turkish officials believe they have cut off the Turkish heroin supply to the

underworld through a two-year-old program controlling the cultivation of poppies.

U.N. drug control officials here are inclined to agree, saying the program «definitely works» and that they intend to continue U.N. financial support for it.

The poppy, source of such drugs as heroin and morphine, has been grown on the arid central Anatolian steppes for 2.000 years. This summer it is once again ripe for harvest in Afyon province and six other provinces where cultivation is permitted under licence.

Poppy cultivation was banned in Turkey in 1972 by an interim government, under strong American pressure. At the time, the U.S. claimed that 80 per cent of the heroin reaching American addicts originated in Turkish poppy fields, reaching America through the «French Connection» via Marseilles.

With the return to power of an elected government, Turkey resumed poppy cultivation in 1974. Before doing so, however, Turkish officials went to the U.N. agencies involved in prevention of drug abuse asking for advice and funds to finance an



effective control system to prevent diversion of opium poppy production into smugglers' hands.

U.N. experts counseled that Turkey adopt the «straw process» method of harvesting, which forbids the farmer to cut the poppy pods for the extraction of the opium gum inside. Heroin is processed from the opium gum; therefore no gum, no heroin. Turkey agreed to the suggestion.

«This was a courageous decision, even a gamble» says Prof. Paul Reuter, head of the U.N. International Narcotics Control Board. «The system had never been tried before outside of the Communist Bloc, where it is used in Poland and the Soviet Union.»

«It was also a risky decision because the system had never been applied on such a large scale in the past.» adds his colleague, Gilbertus de Beus of the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

The two U.N. officials recently visited Turkish poppy fields and storage facilities here and talked to farmers and officials in charge of the control program.

«Our conclusion is that the system definitely works...» says de Beus.

03 SA 7550 (15)

ULB Halle

3/1

000 175 293





Ripened opium-poppy capsules being examined on the cultivation area by Ambassador de Beus, head of the UNFDAC Mission.



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
PRESS AND INFORMATION