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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONVENTION FOR LIMITING THE MANUFACTURE AND REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS OF 13 JULY 1931 AS AMENDED BY THE
PROTOCOL OF 11 DECEMBER 1946

CANADA

SEIZURE OF 3.1 GRAMMES OF DIACETYLMORPHINE MADE AT
VANCOUVER, B.C. ON 11 APRIL 1947

Report No. 41 Communicated by the Government of Canada on 3 November 1947

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Article 23 of the Convention for limiting the
Manufacture and regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs of 13 July 1931,
as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946, the Secretary-General has
the honour to communicate the following report on the above mentioned
seizures to the Members of the United Nations and to the other parties
to the Convention.

/DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

No. 41

1. Name of person or persons implicated: MAH Fon Sam (Occupation: cannery worker) (Born: July 12, 1913) (Canadian born Chinese)
2. Date of Seizure: April 11, 1947
3. Place of Seizure: Vancouver, B.C.
4. Kind and quantity of drug seized: Diacetylmorphine: capsules - $40\frac{1}{2}$ grs.
powder - 8 "
48 $\frac{1}{2}$ grs.
(3.1 grammes)
5. Act and Section under which charged: Opium and Narcotic Drug Act
Sec. 4(d) Possession of Heroin
6. Result of prosecution:
 - (a) Date sentenced: May 1, 1947
 - (b) Where sentenced: Vancouver, B.C.
 - (c) Sentence: 3 years; fined \$200 (U.S.A.\$200) or 3 months in default
7. REMARKS: This Canadian-born Chinese has been giving the Pacific Coast Narcotic authorities trouble since 1938, when he was 25 years of age. That year he was charged with the selling and possession of Opium (three counts). Unfortunately, owing to the unexplained disappearance of a Crown witness, whose evidence was of the utmost importance, MAH was acquitted. He was not so fortunate in 1939; for unlawfully distributing and possessing drugs he received a sentence of three years. Again in 1945 he was put away for 12 months for the illegal possession of Opium. So when it came to the knowledge of the Police in Vancouver that certain street pedlars were disposing of the same type of "Brown" Heroin, and, presumably, obtained from the same source, Mah Fon Sam came under suspicion. Steps were immediately taken to confirm these suspicions and, with the aid of agents, some purchases were made. These purchases were properly covered and, as a result of observation and trailing, the Police uncovered Mah's place of abode. On April 11th, a raid was made on Mah's room in which were present, in addition to Mah Fon Sam, three other well-known characters. None, except Mah, offered resistance. He was quickly overpowered and in his right hand was a capsule of Heroin; on the floor at his feet 8 more capsules of Heroin were picked up. In Mah's left shirt pocket a contraceptive was found which contained 29 capsules of Heroin; his right shirt pocket concealed a cellophane package containing 8 grains (0.5 gramme) of loose white powder. Mah was promptly arrested and charged. As the narcotics found were in actual possession of the Chinaman, and not visible to the other occupants of the room, they were allowed to go. Pending trial, Mah was released on bail. Whilst out on bail apparently he again started to peddle narcotics. Purchase through an agent of a grain capsule of "Brown" heroin, however, failed to provide any additional information. At his trial, Mah Fon Sam pleaded guilty, being sentenced as mentioned.

/Questioning

Questioning of Mah revealed that the Heroin had been obtained from a negro porter on one of the railroads who had brought it in from Toronto, Ont.

A quantitative analysis of the loose powder showed that the exhibits were of very good quality, testing 86 per cent Diacetylmorphine HCL. It would therefore appear reasonable to suppose that Mah was apprehended before he had adulterated his remaining supply.

JS/JC
Ottawa, Ont.
November 1, 1947.

(signed) K.C. Hossick,
K.C. HOSSICK
Chief, Narcotic Division
