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FILE**

THE AJAX FILE

THE AJAX FILE:

AN ANALYSIS OF INTERPOL'S
FAILURE TO COMBAT
INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING

A report by:

The National Commission
on Law Enforcement
and Social Justice (NCLE)

Requests made to the U.S. Bureau (of Interpol) generally did not involve established international criminals or large crime syndicates. Most cases involved individuals with no prior criminal record who were arrested or being investigated for a wide variety of offenses... For example, most narcotics cases, the largest category of requests handled by the U.S. Bureau, involved young Americans or U.S. servicemen arrested overseas with small quantities of drugs, such as marijuana.

General Accounting Office Report
"United States Participation
In Interpol"
December 27, 1976
page 13

For the past 20 years, the United States, as well as dozens other countries, has suffered through drug epidemics that seem to be controlled more by the fashion of the users than by any enforcement methods brought to bear.

Narcotics, unlike the bulk of ordinary crimes, is usually an international problem. Except in cases of locally produced drugs such as LSD or marijuana, law enforcement must deal with the shipment of narcotics often from thousands of miles away before its appearance can prompt action. Whether it be opium from the "Golden Triangle" in Southeast Asia or Turkey or cocaine from Bolivia, law enforcement and local governments must often stand and wait, hoping that similar concerns are shared a half a world away.

Because the major drugs are imported into the United States, international cooperation is often the only means by which citizens can hope for any meaningful curtailment or enforcement. And because the final toll in American cities was too high, any means were sought in the desperate hope that this modern day plague could be resolved.

It was not difficult for the officials of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to find themselves at the crossroads of information traveling around the world. Drugs quickly became the primary topic of conversation at Interpol's annual General Assembly meetings as the western governments expanded their drug enforcement budgets.

Thus as 1976 ended, it came as a mild surprise to many that the General Accounting Office, the auditing arm of the Congress, could not find in the Interpol files any "established international criminals or large crime syndicates" and that "most narcotics cases" that Interpol handled "involved young Americans or U.S. servicemen arrested overseas with small

quantities of drugs, such as marijuana."

While the GAO team did not pursue this oddity, the possible explanation must start with only two possibilities:

1. Interpol has pursued major international narcotics figures and syndicates and the GAO simply did not see those files, or

2. The GAO report is correct - most narcotics cases handled by this private police group avoid major international crime figures.

The first possibility would be hard pressed to maintain on two counts. First, the GAO team spent 10 months and traveled to an equal number of countries in this first-ever investigation of Interpol.(1)* At the Washington, D. C. office, they went through the Interpol files and closely studied every 50th case. Additionally, other reports were available to the investigative team. Finally, the media supports their findings: no stories on the arrest of any major figures or Interpol's role in any major "bust" can be found.

This leaves the second, and most disturbing, explanation. But even here there are several possibilities,

a. There have been no major narcotics investigations for Interpol to participate in;

b. Interpol is an inefficient organization that law enforcement does not take seriously and thus does not share with them any major cases;

c. Interpol has avoided the most serious narcotics offenders.

Alternative "a" can be easily dismissed by even the most casual perusal of recent media. The notorious "French Connection", which was popularized by both book and media, occurred in Interpol's back yard yet there is not one shred of evidence that the organization played any role in it.

Alternative "b" can actually be supported by the statements of various law enforcement officials and the media who have charged Interpol as being nothing but a "mail box" that is slow, cumbersome and ineffective.(2) Some have even described it as only a "travel agency", referring to the annual meetings at which nothing substantial is accomplished.(3) U.S. officials have expressed concern for Interpol's internal security and insisted that it would not transmit any highly sensitive material.(4) Thus this alternative does bear some consideration.

Alternative "c", however, is the most disturbing possibility. As a private organization, Interpol has never had to open its international files to any investigative body. The GAO's study was a landmark and then only the U.S. files were seen.

Unfortunately, while alternative "b" may be true, alternative "c", that Interpol has avoided major narcotics offenses, is being supported by growing evidence. This evidence is based upon two important points:

1. Interpol is and has been a French-dominated organization, and

*(1), (2), etc., indicates footnote. See back of report.

2. French intelligence services and officials have been involved in narcotics trafficking for over two decades.

THE FRENCH INTERPOL (5)

Until 1946, France's role in this international cooperative had been much like any other country's - France was a member and paid its annual membership dues. But in 1946, the relationship changed. France was no longer just a participant, but had suddenly become the primary sponsor and supporter.

Created in 1924, Interpol was another attempt at some form of "European community", this time with regard to crime. With their borders in such close proximity, the police chiefs of a number of European nations met to work out the concept of a central para-national body that would assist in combating the post-World War I crimes that plagued the continent. In the wake of "internationalism" stirred up by the new League of Nations, Interpol was created.

The moving force came from Austria and there the organization took its first roots. The constitution required that the association (then known as the "International Criminal Police Commission" - the name would be changed after the war to sound "more permanent") would be headed by the leader of the host country's police.

By 1935, new support came from an eager Germany. Swastikas began to appear at the annual meetings, and a Nazi General was elected vice president. Three years later, the Austrians voted to join with Germany, and Interpol went with them.

While there is only one recorded protest (and that stemmed from the more basic issue of Germany controlling Austria), no one in Interpol complained. After all, one must remember that in 1938, the German police system was considered by most as the most efficient and effective in the world. Interpol had found an intense supporter and Interpol officials reciprocated.

By 1941, Interpol was housed in Berlin. The Austrian Secretary General moved to the German capital and worked on a new book detailing the activity of his organization with the two successive Gestapo chiefs - Reinhard Heydrich and Ernst Kaltenbrunner. The group was given new facilities and continued to operate throughout the war. (6)

The collapse of Germany in 1945 momentarily terminated Interpol's activities. The group's president was hung for war crimes at Nuremberg and the Secretary General returned in disgrace to Austria, too "tainted" to continue any public role in Interpol's development.

But just before the war ended, a final drama was played out that might explain (in light of later events) France's recognition that Interpol could have a value far beyond anything imagined, even by the Germans.

The story is told in Harry Soderman's book Policeman's Lot. (7) Soderman had been with the organization since its creation in 1924. While he fails to mention that he collaborated with the Nazis throughout the war, the Swedish policeman was privy to extensive information about Interpol's officials, activities and... files.

Brought from Austria, the Interpol files were developed extensively by the Nazi police. According to famed Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, the files were used to find Europe's top forgers for the counterfeiting of foreign currencies, passports, but as well as sheer blackmail to force many to spy for the Third Reich. (8)

By the end of the war, the files would certainly be of interest to any government for what they would have contained. Apparently seeing their value, Gestapo Colonel Carlos Zindel packed up as many files as he could and fled Berlin, according to Soderman. Whether by design or accident (Soderman's account and events of the period make this difficult), Zindel and the files ended up in French hands at Stuttgart where the Nazi took cyanide, leaving the French with one of the final legacies of the Nazi police. (9)

Within months after the end of the war, Soderman and Florent Louwage, a Belgian who had also collaborated with the Nazi Interpol throughout the war, met to discuss revitalizing the organization. Louwage obtained his government's agreement to issue invitations and the 1946 meeting of the "new" Interpol was set. (10)

With the election of new officers, the only other matter of business to seriously consider was where the organization would be situated. The delegate from Great Britain reported that by "common consent" Paris was chosen as the seat for the "new" Interpol. (11)

War-torn with political conflicts and financial instability provoking conflicts in the streets, France's move to offer personnel and funds to reestablish an organization that had not operated outside Nazi influence for 9 years and certainly of questionable immediate value was not questioned by a cadre of officials who had for years before been working with the Nazis. The French were willing to give Interpol space as well as personnel and operating expenses.

The support would grow over the years until, according to an official report given a U.S. Senate Subcommittee(12), 85% of about 150 personnel at the "international" headquarters in Paris were French. Secretary General Jean Nepote related to one researcher it was not that Frenchmen were any smarter, but explaining the high predominance of his countrymen, "They are cheaper." (13)

Today, Interpol operates from a 7 story building in the Paris suburbs that was built for them from French funds. The agreement with the French government allows the national police access to the Interpol files, a privilege that is not afforded any other country. (14) Every Secretary General since 1946 has been French and there is no indication, despite some protests that the headquarters is superficially "international", that there will be any changes in the near future. (15)

THE FRENCH BACKGROUND

Next to the English Bobbies, French Gendarmes are probably the most familiar of the world's police. But behind the visible gendarmes is a vast network of intelligence and enforcement systems that easily staggers the imagination not only in complex structure but in activity.

On April 5, 1971, during a routine, almost casual, inspection of a Volkswagen camper entering the United States at New Jersey, 22 year old Lynn Pelletier discovered 96 pounds (22 kilos) of pure heroin hidden beneath floorboards and in a water tank. Arrested was Roger Xavier Leon Delouette, 48, who was only described as a Parisian. (16)

On the surface, the discovery was merely an exceptional find as the street value of the heroin was approximately \$12 million. But very soon, Delouette began to talk to New Jersey's young, energetic U.S. Attorney Herbert J. Stern. The repercussions were international. (17)

The arrest came during a time that the Nixon Administration was announcing how it had received the "fullest cooperation" from the French government in its war on heroin. But Delouette told another tale that rivaled Hollywood.

According to Delouette, he was a former officer in the Service de Documentation Extérieure et de Contre Espionage (SDECE) - the French equivalent of the CIA - and he had been couriering the drugs as part of a SDECE approved and directed operation.

Separated from his wife and six children, Delouette had lived the life of an intelligence agent since 1946, working in Greece, Algeria, the Ivory Coast and Cuba. (18) But by 1970, in deep financial straits and out of work, he telephoned Colonel Paul Fournier, the mysterious head of the SDECE, leaving a message in the name of "Delmas", Delouette's code name. Fournier returned the call later and a meeting was arranged with another party who hired Delouette to carry over \$17,000 in counterfeit American dollars into Italy. The mission was not successfully carried out, but Delouette was not forgotten.

"Around the 15th of December -- maybe before then," he related, "he (Fournier) telephoned me to ask me if I would accept an assignment, a very special assignment which included certain risks." Delouette did and a meeting with an unnamed man, "approximately thirty years old, a little smaller than I am... dark-complected, distinguished looking and dressed in a very elegant manner," took place at the Cafe le Paris on the Champs Elysees.

"He told me that for special matters they needed to smuggle drugs to the United States," Delouette stated, for which he would be paid 300,000 francs (approximately \$54,000).

Delouette obtained a visa and purchased a camper in Switzerland. The plans were made and moving.

On February 15th, Fournier called Delouette to see that everything was moving satisfactorily. When Delouette told him it was, another meeting was established during which schedules were laid out. Delouette was also repaid for his purchase of the camper.

On March 15th, Delouette was sent to a small town about 25 miles outside of Paris. The meeting was brief and professional. "Very quickly he began to remove certain panels of the truck," the former SDECE agent said, "beginning with the front-- without hesitation-- which made me think that it was not the first time that he did this." Fifty kilos of heroin were secreted away with the unnamed man keeping another 11 packages that could not be put into the camper.

The following day, Delouette took the camper to Le Havre, and the Volkswagen bus was consigned for New Jersey. On April 4th, he boarded a TWA flight for New York. But before leaving, Fournier assured him that if "in the United States I had any kind of a problem at all... I could always address myself to the man whom we (meaning SDECE) had at the consulate."

Delouette's story plus a lie detector test convinced a Federal Grand Jury which handed down indictments both on him and Fournier.

The French government's response was both varied and heated. (19) One spokesman discounted the charges, but admitted that Delouette had worked for SDECE. But the media were told that an investigation of the charges had begun in France, albeit under the "most extreme reservations". (20) Defense Minister Michel Debré dismissed Delouette's account as "a serialized novel". Fournier's only response was to reply to the New Jersey prosecutor, "If I am guilty, Mr. Stern, prove it, and justice will follow its course." Stern's reply was to invite Fournier to the United States to stand trial. (21)

Within a matter of days, Fournier's cover was blown. Colonel Roger Barberot, who headed a French intelligence operation working under the name of the Agricultural Production Development, went on Radio Luxembourg to say that "Colonel Fournier" was actually Paul Ferrer, a former Air Force Master Sergeant. Barberot charged that Delouette had been set up. (22)

Even with proper identification, the State Department never acted to even request extradition of Fournier-Ferrer. Assistant Secretary of State Nelson Gross, insisted that the Delouette case "imperiled" an agreement with the French government. (23)

Stern flew to Paris to no avail. The French sent a representative to the United States to interrogate and try and break Delouette, with equal success. Delouette's pregnant mistress was arrested, his family interrogated, but the former SDECE agent would not move. (24)

On April 17, 1972, Delouette was sentenced to 5 years. He lives today on the east coast under a new identity. No charges were ever brought against Paul Fournier-Ferrer. (25)

The U.S. government forgot the entire issue.

FRENCH INTELLIGENCE: SDECE

Originally called the Bureau Central de Renseignement et

d'Action (BCRA), France's equivalent to the CIA is found in the Service de Documentation Extérieure et du Contre-Espionage (SDECE - pronounced "steck"). Formed originally to help manage French resistance against the Nazi occupation, SDECE is an amalgamation of antecedents drawing from extremes from de Gaulle's organization that was headquartered in London during the war to underworld elements.

Delouette's allegations that SDECE ran drugs to help finance their intelligence operation was fully substantiated the following year by writer Alfred W. McCoy in his book, The Politics Of Heroin in Southeast Asia. (26) In a sweeping yet detailed analysis of the world heroin problem, McCoy claims that "informed observers are convinced that some of SDECE's top intelligence officers have been organizing narcotics shipments to the United States" to help finance another group that often carries out SDECE's "dirty" missions - the Service D'Action Civique (SAC). (27)

SAC was created to help handle the May revolution of 1968 which nearly toppled the de Gaulle regime. Jacques Foccart, de Gaulle's top intelligence adviser, brought together over 5,000 men, mainly Corsican and French gangsters, and assigned them to such tasks as breaking up anti-Gaullist demonstrations and providing protection for government officials.

SDECE's involvement stemmed from the problem that is the title of McCoy's book. Basically, France was involved in a war that was as unpopular in the 1950's as it was to be in the United States a decade later. Short of funds, McCoy writes, French intelligence agencies "quickly and secretly took over the narcotics traffic" in order to "finance their clandestine operations against the Communist Viet Minh." (28)

Dubbed 'Operation X' by insiders, this clandestine opium traffic produced a legacy of Corsican narcotics syndicates and corrupted French intelligence officers who remain even today key figures in the international narcotics trade. (29)

While the movement of opium and heroin for profit was sanctioned at the very highest levels of French intelligence and known to very few, an American CIA official discovered its existence during a 6 week tour of Indochina in 1953. Col. Edward G. Lansdale discovered that French officers had bought up the 1953 opium harvest on orders from the commander in chief of the Expeditionary Corps and that the opium had been sent to Saigon for sale and export and reported the matter to Washington. Lansdale told McCoy in 1971 that the response was roughly:

Don't you have anything else to do? We don't want you to open up this keg of worms since it will be a major embarrassment to a friendly government. So drop your investigation. (30)

The ease with which SDECE was able to expand their drug market stemmed in part from the predominance of Corsicans who had occupied positions in the Saigon underworld. Many had come to French Indochina in the late 19th century and had dominated the civil service and legitimate businesses as well as the black market and smuggling operations. (31)

Corsica had been a French province since the 1700's, and many had settled comfortably in the Marseilles area on the south coast, as well as in French Indochina. The Corsican underworld had already established a lucrative business in the smuggling of gold bullion and paper currency between Marseilles and their cohorts in Saigon so the end of the war opened new vistas as narcotics became the most profitable venture for post-war syndicates. Ironically, it was the CIA that opened the door to them and allowed the heroin traffic to flow between Marseilles and Saigon.

While Socialist and Communist parties in France were firmly allied during the war, elections in April 1945 began to see a factionalism that was to result in 1946 and the following years in bloody street fighting in Marseilles. Strikes and rioting began to grip the city that was viewed as a vital element in the American Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe. Marseilles has one of the most important international ports in Europe, and strikes agitated by the Communists began to concern American policy makers in the CIA. According to former director of CIA's international organizations division, Thomas W. Braden, a "takeover of the (French) government was feared." (32)

The CIA sent agents to Marseilles to deal directly with the Corsican syndicates offering money and weapons to the gangs to assault Communist picket lines, meetings and officials. Flanked by massive "psychological warfare" techniques using pamphlets, radio and posters, violence also broke out as the Communist supporters were assaulted. Police units were purged of Communist members or suspected Communists as Corsicans aligned with the CIA. (33)

But it took further strikes in 1950 to finally give the Corsican syndicate its grip on the Marseilles docks.

The war in Indochina had lost its popularity and dock workers sought to shut down shipment of supplies to the Expeditionary Forces. Again, CIA help came as an elite criminal terror squad was recruited to handle the docks. Communist picket lines were assaulted and finally by mid-April, the strike was broken. But the price was more than anyone imagined.

In supplying the Corsican syndicates with money and support, the CIA broke the last barrier to unrestricted Corsican smuggling operations in Marseilles. (34)

French police reported later that Marseille's first heroin laboratory was opened in 1951, only months after the syndicates had taken control of the waterfront.

Now, all that was needed was raw opium and the Corsican syndicates in Saigon, with the help of SDECE, to complete the chain.

THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

Nazi occupation of France did little to upset the Corsican syndicates. Opportunists that they were, elements could be found on both sides of the Resistance.

When, in July, 1942, the Resistance made its first attack on a pro-German political organization in Marseilles, two Corsican leaders turned over to the Gestapo the following afternoon a complete list of all those involved.(35) Their actions did not speak for the growing syndicates, however.

A "significant enough element of the Corsican underworld sided secretly with the Resistance to ensure the consolidation of some sort of power base" at the end of the war. (36)

Marcel Francisci, owner of an international gambling syndicate and identified as a primary organizer of morphine base smuggling operations into France, was a veteran of the Resistance and was awarded four medals for his wartime activities. (37) By 1967, he had gained considerable political influence through his assistance in organizing a group of Corsican gangsters known popularly as barbouzes ("bearded ones") to combat the right-wing terrorist campaign which erupted following de Gaulle's announcement that Algeria would become independent. (38)

Still considered as perhaps the most powerful of the Corsican narcotics chiefs, Francisci today resides in Paris, leaving his Marseilles connection to others under this command. Francisci's rise to power, a path fraught with violence reminiscent of old-style Chicago gang wars, came during the 1960's when Roger Frey served as Minister of Interior. Frey's successive deputies, Alexandre Sanguinetti and Jean Bozzi, completed a French troika in the highest echelons that were extremely close to the Corsican chief. Sanguinetti, president of the national committee on defense of the National Assembly and operational head of the French police from 1960-62, and Bozzi, member of the National Assembly from Corsica, the Assembly's secretary and operational head of the French police from 1962-67, were supplied manpower from the criminal ranks by Francisci to build de Gaulle's counter-terror organizations. (39)

The squads that were formed with Francisci's help became SAC which was protected from police interference and allowed to move freely by merely showing the French tricolor identification cards. (40) According to one U.S. report, at least 10 SAC gangsters were arrested smuggling large amounts of heroin in the early 1970's. (41)

It was SAC, in fact, that much of SDECE's narcotics trafficking was directed towards financing, "using the SDECE counter-intelligence net to protect their shipments". (42)

Francisci loved to entertain his friends high in the government, often in private on his yacht. Besides Sanguinetti, Francisci also entertained Jacques Foccart, Charles Pasqua and Achille Peretti. (43)

Pasqua, who helped found SAC and chaired a National Assembly committee investigating France's drug problem, is heavily connected to the Corsican underworld and was able to mysteriously move to a very wealthy position in but a few years. He told the Newsday investigative team that his sudden affluence came merely from his ability "to turn a few good business turns". (44)

ACHILLE PERETTI

In 1964, the editor of a large Paris paper, a Corsican, received a call from Francisci. He said he understood that one of the paper's reporters was checking into the home life of Achille Peretti, a UDR (Union des Democratess Pour la Republique - the ruling Gaullist political party) deputy and president of the National Assembly. Francisci suggested that the story be killed. It was.

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Born in Ajaccio, Corsica, June 13, 1911, Achille Peretti is currently the mayor of the richest suburb of Paris - Neuilly-sur-Seine. A mere police superintendent in the Marseilles-Nice area when war broke out, Peretti came out of the war quite well-to-do and today is considered quite rich.

While part of his wealth could be attributed to gold smuggling and black marketing, he was assigned to repress while serving in the Nazi-sympathetic Vichy police, some hint that it may have stemmed from his close acquaintance with the Corsican syndicates in Marseilles. (45)

July, 1943, saw the invasion of Sicily by the Allies. The battle of Stalingrad had turned the war on the eastern front and the war had begun to deteriorate for the Nazis. Many who had vacillated with resistance, suddenly found their patriotic fervor, and the fleeing Nazi heard was met with a growing antagonism where once there had been only pockets of resistance.

As a police inspector in Marseilles, Peretti was in an excellent position to take advantage of the situation. With the help of London (following a trip to the British Isles), Peretti established a resistance group composed of police officers. Called "Ajax", apparently after his Corsican home of Ajaccio, it was able to give some assistance to the war effort, for example, in helping the head of an important operational network to escape. (45)

Peretti actually had some intelligence experience. He had been a member of "Ali-Tir", a resistance group that had been established by the counterintelligence chief of the BCRA, Roger Wybow. (45)

Ajax itself was not actually a single group. Ajax was the name given to four smaller organizations: Candide, Zadig, Micromegas and Stuart. "Ajax" was the code name given to the coordination of these 4 groups which operated in the south of France with radio contact to Switzerland.

While no accurate count of the members of each group was available, Ajax itself had about 180 members as the war came to a close. But suddenly, as the war ended, the membership files of Ajax swelled to 2000. (45A)

Among those names is Jean Nepote, the Secretary General of Interpol.

Nepote's affiliation with Ajax came out during a taped interview with an NCLE researcher in December, 1975, in Paris. (45B) While he did not offer any further information as to his role in the organization, the NCLE began to search on its own.

What is purported to be the secret membership book of Ajax members was viewed and it was confirmed that a "J. Nepote" is listed under the code name "Turenne III". (46) It is about three-quarters of the way down the list of "N's". (47)

According to members of the group, as well as others who knew Nepote during the war, Nepote and Ajax crossed only in the membership book. As one person explained, collaboration with the Nazis had been astonishingly high and many citizens had to move quickly to create an appearance that any outward activity of theirs was merely a "cover". Membership lists of heroic resistance groups were often opened up to become the equivalent of "diploma mills", i.e., whoever had the money could buy a membership and a certificate showing anti-Nazism. (48)

Former Ajax members support this. (49) When asked if Nepote had been a member, none could vouch for the now Secretary General. Two stated emphatically that Nepote was not a member. Another said Nepote's name had been added a year after the liberation of Paris. Another, who also knew Nepote, laughed when told that he claimed membership in the Resistance group and stated that it was "a little too much". (50)

Undaunted, Nepote has also claimed to have been awarded a Croix du Guerre medal for his resistance work. The NCLE checked with the Association Nationale des Medaillies de la Resistance Francais which lists all such citations. His name does not appear. Nepote has not supplied any supporting proof.

Like Peretti, Nepote was a police official during the occupation. Nepote worked in the files section of the Sûreté and was able to establish himself in the French police at the end of the war, a not uncommon feat. One person intimately familiar with the Ajax files stated that about 80% of the higher ranking police officials could be found in the Ajax membership book. (51)

Peretti was also a member of the "purification" committee which determined who had collaborated and who had not. In light of the purges that followed liberation, one can imagine the favors and benefits of both owning a Resistance group (that one could join) and having the power to identify who was "clean". The potential for blackmail is also evident. (52)

Peretti quickly moved up the police ranks and was a Deputy Director of the Sûreté for the Algerian Government in May, 1944. Nepote also moved into the Sûreté and from there to a full-time position in Interpol, thanks, according to one well-informed source, to Peretti's new-found position of power - Ajax. (53)

In 1946, France took control of Interpol and Nepote was named to move into the new offices where the Gestapo once terrorized the city. By 1958, he was named Deputy Secretary General and 5 years later, in 1963, he took on his current position as the full-time director of the 155 plus staff and the daily, world-wide operations of Interpol. During his rise to power, Nepote served under and was friends with Bozzi and Sanguinetti, the close friends of syndicate boss Francischi, who had, in turn, killed a journalistic investigation of Ajax founder Peretti.

Today, Jean Nepote's office in the 7 story building of Interpol overlooks the Seine. While the entire city of Paris separates him and Peretti, they may be joined in more than a mere dog-eared book with penciled-in names.

SUMMARY

For the past three decades, Interpol has concentrated on narcotics. While an inspection of Interpol files shows no "established international criminals or large crime syndicates," other files do show that Interpol officials in South America have been responsible for cocaine trafficking into the United States. (54) It has also been well established that Christian David, former SDECE agent, was one of the primary moving forces in South American drug trafficking and of the Corsican syndicate there until his arrest in 1972. (55)

In such a light, Interpol's failure to handle international drug trafficking may be found in the following:

1. French syndicates dominated the Marseilles-Golden Triangle heroin route for years.
2. The French government and police have had an inordinate amount of difficulty in fighting this traffic.
3. French intelligence agencies took into their ranks these same criminal elements and have also been a primary source of trafficking. (56)
4. This drug smuggling has been sanctioned by the highest levels of French law enforcement.
5. Interpol has been French dominated since 1946 and has been under the same powers that sanctioned drug trafficking by French intelligence and military groups.
6. Evidence has already been found that Interpol officials have used their positions to traffic in drugs, and there is no indication that Nepote has taken any action against them.

The use of Interpol to a syndicate can easily be seen. Where SDECE was able to move drugs using their "counterintelligence net to protect their shipments" (57), Interpol, with its free access to the drug intelligence files of over 100 nations, could provide the needed additional information. The organization has already been caught in a most embarrassing position of receiving top secret information on terrorists who mysteriously obtained the information a short while later. (58)

Apparently, Interpol is but one cog in the massive international machinery that is profiting from the transport of narcotics. The fact that the U.S. Justice Department wholeheartedly supports the organization and is seeking to offer further support is even more disturbing.

CONCLUSION

Effective action against narcotics such as heroin must go beyond mere enforcement. There are limits to diplomacy, especially when one turns one's back upon crime.

The Justice Department and State Department clearly have sufficient information to undertake a new era and demonstrate to the American public their capability and interest in protecting this country from the scourge of drugs. Concentrating on the youth when the top names are known and cooperation cannot be obtained from governments such as the French is clearly not only an inversion of justice, but of logic as well.

This country has spent billions to combat drugs while the elements involved must have been reassured that there was no danger to be felt. Such attitudes must change.

Perhaps, in light of recent and continuing revelations of irresponsibility at the highest levels of enforcement, it is expecting too much to demand that an adequate degree of ethics be applied on an international level before we have put our own house in order.

At the same time, however, this refusal to act effectively on any level must be changed and there is no reason why we should not demand it now.

The alternatives are unacceptable.

FOOTNOTES

1. During May-June, 1976, the 3-man GAO team split up and visited France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Thailand, India, Japan, Venezuela, Peru and Brazil. The rest of the time was spent in the U.S. See pp 41-42 of the GAO report for cities and officials visited.
2. The London Sunday Times of September 22, 1974, featured Interpol in the last of a 3-part series on terrorism. Headlined "Why Interpol Can't Help", writer Tony Rocca observed that "far from being the slick and sophisticated organization of popular mythology, Interpol is entering its 52nd year wracked by political conflict, short of money and considered such an irrelevance by many police forces that even the simplest inquiry between European member-states can now take up to four months to see through."

Police Review, a British police journal, hit Interpol for being "too bureaucratic, unwieldy, short of money and not sufficiently used," according to the London Evening News of Feb. 8, 1975.
3. From interviews conducted in France, February, 1977, by NCLE researchers. An editor of a major Paris daily said Interpol's activities "were not taken seriously" by the French media. "They are nothing but a travel agency for brief vacations," we were told.
4. NCLE interview with well-informed U.S. official, Washington, D.C., April 1977. The NCLE was told that Interpol's lack of security prohibited the sending of any highly sensitive material.
5. Interpol's history has been well documented by the NCLE and even submitted to Congressional bodies. References to Interpol's past which follow can be found in Interpol: A Documented History, a 153 page report published by the NCLE in January, 1975. This report contains about 100 pages of reproduced documents detailing Interpol's history and functions. Additional information was published in April, 1975, in False Report Correction: The Secretary of the Treasury's Report on Interpol which also contains ample documentation. References to already existing NCLE documents will simply be referred back to this reference.
6. Interpol's facilities in Berlin were the site of the infamous Wansee or "final solution" conference at which the fate of millions of Jews, gypsies, and others was decided. Robert Payne in his Life and Death of Adolph Hitler (Popular Library, 1973) notes this on page 465.
7. Published by Funk & Wagnalls, New York, 1956. Soderman died during the final revision of this book. His account of Interpol remained the standard reference work until NCLE's research.
8. Filmed interview in "Dossier: Interpol" produced by Studio 22, Amsterdam, Holland, 1977.

9. Soderman, page 376.
10. Soderman, pages 382ff.
11. International Criminal Police Review, September, 1946. This was the first post-war issue. Holland and Czechoslovakia also offered to permanently host Interpol but were turned down.
12. Senate Hearings before the Committee on Appropriations, 94th Congress, 1st Session, on May 6, 1975, page 84.
13. Tape-recorded interview with Nepote by NCLE Research Director Vaughn Young at Interpol's headquarters in France, December, 1975.
14. The agreement was drawn up on May 12, 1972, and passed by the French Assembly on Dec. 23, 1972 as law number 72-1165 and published in the Official Journal of the French Republic on Dec. 28, 1972.
15. Certain countries have protested the French dominance. Interviews conducted in Europe January-February, 1977 by the NCLE. The NCLE was also told that the Australian delegation had even threatened to terminate relations if Jean Nepote continued to serve as Secretary General. Apparently they wanted a full housecleaning.
16. The account was covered in a number of papers on May 12, 1971.
17. The next stage in the media accounts occurred Nov. 15, 1971. See The New York Times, Nov. 15, 20, Newsweek Nov. 29, 1971, Washington Post April 30, 1972, for best synopsis.
18. The following is taken from transcripts of his interrogations which are public records in Newark.
19. Max Fernet, head of the criminal police, discounted Delouette's charges. Stern wrote Fernet earlier but got no assistance. Fernet, it should be noted, is also a big Interpol supporter. He attended Interpol conferences from 1956-71 missing only 1961 and 1966.
20. New York Times and Washington Post, November 11, 1971.
21. Newsweek, November 29, 1971, page 38.
22. New York Times, November 20, 1971, page 49.
23. Paul Hoffman, Tiger in the Court (Playboy Press, Chicago) 1973, pp. 237-238.
24. Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger, April 18, 1972.
25. Interview with Delouette's attorney, Donald Robinson, June, 1976.
26. Alfred W. McCoy with Cathleen B. Read and Leonard P. Adams II, The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia (Harper and Row, NY), 1972.
27. Op. cit., p. 50

28. Op. cit., p. 91
29. Op. cit., p. 92
30. Op. cit., p. 102
31. Op. cit., p. 121
32. Thomas W. Braden, "I'm Glad the CIA is Immoral", Saturday Evening Post, May 20, 1967, p. 14.
33. Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia, p. 44
34. Op. cit., p. 46-47
35. Op. cit., p. 34-35
36. Op. cit., p. 35
37. Op. cit., p. 47
38. Op. cit., p. 49
39. The Heroin Trail, by the staff and editors of Newsday (Holt, Rineheart and Winston, NY) 1973, 1974, p. 86
40. Op. cit., p. 131-32
41. Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia, p. 50
42. Ibid. It is unlikely that it is a coincidence that nearly all of them came after the arrest of Delouette.
43. Alain Jaubert, Dossier D ... Comme Drogue (AM Editions, Paris) 1976, p. 145
44. The Heroin Trail, p. 148
45. Interview, Paris, Feb. 1977
- 45A. A noted French author and expert on French resistance and intelligence commented on Ajax's sudden expansion that "the lightening speed with which it (Ajax) extended itself after the getaway of the Germans surprised me a bit."
- 45B. It is interesting to note that of all persons who claimed to be with Ajax, Nepote was the only one who said "Ajax". Others cited the actual group, e.g., "Micromegas", "Stuart", etc. It was an oddity that became apparent only when true members were found.
46. One does not have to be well versed in intelligence to know that agents would never have been given such designations. The capture of a "#3" would let the enemy know there is a #2. Additionally, it could easily cause havoc in communications with an agent getting another's messages.
47. Names were alphabetized only by first letter of last name. The list is hand done in a small book and additional names can be easily added with no disruption. At the back of the log there was an entry showing that of 1153 members: 762

part-time, 188 cover agents, 203 occasional, 44 deported, 34 killed. No breakdown.

48. Because such groups were highly secret and compartmentalized, it was not unusual for one's membership to be unknown but to a few highly selected persons. Apparently, most of Ajax's membership were known only to Peretti and a few close friends.
49. NCLE researchers took note of the reluctance many expressed in discussing Ajax and/or Peretti. Discussions of Resistance groups in general would often be lighthearted and cordial until Ajax or Peretti's name was mentioned. A few times, the conversation was quickly terminated and pleasantries turned into nervous hostility or fear.
50. Interviews, Paris, Marseilles, Nice, February, 1977.
51. Ibid.
52. C. Angeli and P. Gillet, La Police Dans La Politique. Paris, 1970.
53. Interview, Paris, February, 1977.
54. "Report of The Drug Law Enforcement Sub-Project of the USAID/La Paz Public Safety Program", by David R. Powell and Jess A. Ojeda, Office of Public Safety, Agency for International Development, Department of State, Washington, D.C., dated April, 1970. The role of Interpol officials in South American drug smuggling has been covered in another NCLE report. Christian David, a former SDECE agent, was also a primary trafficker in South America. A full account can be found in Heroin Trail, pages 110, 124-6, 130-1, 154-5. It should also be noted this AID report was written a year before Delouette was arrested.
55. Heroin Trail, pp. 154-55
56. Additional SDECE agents who were traffickers can be found in Heroin Trail, p. 110.
57. The Politics of Heroin..., p. 51
58. Yeshayahu Ben-Porat, Eitan Haber and Zeev Schiff, Entebbe Rescue (Dell, NY), 1977, page 56. On p. 345 the authors note that Interpol "is not the tool for the job" of combating terrorism.