

Thais Given U.S. Helicopters In Drive on Narcotics

BANGKOK, Thailand, Oct. 31 (AP)—The United States has given Thailand five helicopters for use in this country's campaign against narcotics, a spokesman for the United States Embassy said today.

The Bell helicopters, unarmed civilian versions of the "Huey" craft used extensively in the Vietnam War, will probably be used to track down opium caravans and locate crops and heroin factories in the inaccessible area called the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Burma converge. That area is considered the source of about two-thirds of the world's opium.

The embassy spokesman said the helicopters were now being assembled in Thailand for the Thai police. "Although Thailand isn't the worst opium-producing country, we are a main trading center for narcotics," said Prime Minister Tanin Kraivichien. "We are trying to tackle this problem with full force."

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