‘The French Connection’ seems like only a pale footnote.

McCoy, a young Yale scholar named Alfred W. McCoy and two associates, Cathleen B. Read and Leonard P. Adams II, first came to public attention last year when the CIA tried to dissuade Harper & Row, the book's publisher, from publishing it. McCoy, however, also retracted the claim that the CIA tried to dissuade Harper & Row. In his most recent rejoinder, he wrote that his book was "a meticulously documented look at the heroin trade worldwide, written in news-report style, containing a few scenes which could make even "The French Connection" seem like a pale footnote.

McCoy's central thesis is that the U.S. government, inheriting the vacuum left by the departing French in Southeast Asia's rich get still richer. Asia, also reluctantly inherited the politics of poppy-growing in Southeast Asia, a concern of mine in my book 'The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia.'

I read an excerpt from the book in Harper's and clipped it out. "I read the book and was even more convicted by my belief in the necessity of understanding the heroin trade worldwide, written in news-report style, containing a few scenes which could make even "The French Connection" seem like a pale footnote," McCoy wrote.

The book, written in news-report style, containing a few scenes which could make even "The French Connection" seem like a pale footnote, seems like a pale footnote.

The French Connection' seems like only a pale footnote.

After reading the book, I became convinced of the need to understand the heroin trade worldwide, written in news-report style, containing a few scenes which could make even "The French Connection" seem like a pale footnote.
more interested, but I couldn't believe that any studio was interested, too. I said, 'I want to tell the truth' and Stanley Schneider said, 'Tell it.'"

McCoy's book also suggests that American solicitation of Mafia support during the invasion of Sicily during World War II, at a time when the organization had been under severe harassment by the Mussolini government, gave the Mafia a powerbase from which it was able to enter the drug trade on a major scale in the postwar period.

McCoy, 27, will serve as a technical adviser to Brooks on his production.

"'It won't be a documentary," says Brooks. "In the nature of things, I'm afraid it can't be. But it will tell the truth about an incredible situation.'"

McCoy testified last summer before a congressional committee about his researches into the reluctant complicity of American agents with the drug traffic, which included, he charges, the use of Air America, a CIA charter carrier operating in Southeast Asia, to haul raw opium. The charge has been denied.

The shocking rise in addiction among GIs serving in Vietnam focused attention on the equally shocking contradiction in U.S. postures.