

Young Tourist's Drug Smuggling Trail

By Martin Stuart-Fox
United Press International

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — As more and more young travelers take the hashish trail east, more are succumbing to the temptation to smuggle cheap drugs back to Europe and the United States — and more are getting caught.

Young Americans, Germans, Britons and half a dozen other nationalities, are in jails from Istanbul to Tehran, Mashhad and Kabul. They are serving out prison sentences ranging from a few months to seven years for possession or attempted smuggling of hashish, or are waiting for relatives and friends to scrape up heavy fines to secure their release.

Way It Was

Four years ago hashish and opium could be freely obtained in Turkey and Iran. Men sidled up to any long-haired foreigner on the streets of Istanbul or Tehran offering to sell him drugs. Police paid little attention to the cheap hotels where hash was smoked as a matter of course.

Now both Turkey and Iran, under strong foreign pressure, have clamped down upon illegal drug traffic in their countries. This year's tightly controlled opium harvest will be the last legally grown in Turkey.

But raw opium and especially hashish, not to mention morphine and cocaine, are still freely available in Afghanistan at prices much less than in Europe and the United States.

A kilogram of hashish in Afghanistan sells for \$10 to \$25. The same amount will fetch at least \$500 in Europe and as much as \$1,000 in the United States. Opium is a little more expensive, while a

Invites French Visit

Reuters News Agency

PARIS — Soviet Communist party leader Leonid Brezhnev has invited French President Georges Pompidou to visit the Soviet Union, official sources said Saturday.

The invitation was issued during Brezhnev's six-day visit to France.

Leads Right to Jail

tablet of morphine can be bought cross the counter in any pharmacy for less than 20 cents.

Already Hidden

To add to the temptation Afghan dealers offer the hash already canned with a fruit salad label, packed into gas cylinders, or secreted inside handicrafts. In Kandahar persons bringing cars are directed to a friendly garage prepared to weld in anything from a false floor to a second gas tank.

But the naive hippie who purchases his 20 kilos of hash is in for a rude surprise. Afghanistan is the land of "baksheesh." Unless the buyer pays off everyone from the

garage owner to the police, he is likely to find that the dealer has turned him in. In such case the dealer shares the profit from the return of his hash with the police.

In the Kabul fire station, an old garage with a length of discolored cloth over the doorway serves as the foreigner's jail. Three Englishmen, John, John and Lawrence (26, 25 and 24), all from Birmingham, had been waiting over a month for money from England to pay their fines.

Speedy Arrest

They were picked up in Kandahar two minutes after purchasing 25 kilos of hash. They had not paid enough people.

Their fines of 100,000 Afghanies each (\$1,250) are the highest handed down yet in Afghanistan. In his ruling, the judge told them that everyone in England makes \$450 a week so they could easily pay.

In the same garage with the Englishmen were three others caught with hash. Arny, 22, of New York, is an old inhabitant of Kabul. He had been in town seven months when police raided the house he shared with seven others and arrested him, the lessee, after they found five kilos of hash in a box ready for mailing. Police also confiscated his .32 Beretta, which particularly annoyed him. Arny had been in the fire station for 10 weeks when I saw him, waiting for money to pay his \$700 fine.

'Happy' Birthday

Jaski, from Holland, celebrated his 22nd birthday in the

firehouse. The other prisoners bought him a cake, thanks to a friendly guard. He was caught at Kabul airport with 3.5 kilos of hash in a cast on his left leg. When he couldn't produce an X-ray police chipped off the cast.

Marc, 20, from Paris, was caught trying to mail 2.5 kilos to France, without paying off the necessary authorities. The man who caught him kept 1.5 kilos as baksheesh, so Marc was only fined \$200 or 1 kilo. Under Afghan law the higher

the quantity, the higher the fine.

But foreigners caught in Afghanistan are comparatively lucky. In Iran they may languish in jail for three to four months before coming to court — and then can be given a prison sentence of up to seven years. No one has yet served a prison sentence in Afghanistan, but if anyone is unable to pay their fine they must serve one day for every 50 Afghanies (75 cents) of the amount.

YOUR GROUP CAN EARN EXTRA MONEY!

SELL OUR QUALITY MILK CHOCOLATE BAR WITH ROASTED ALMONDS

Special Low Prices to Groups, Clubs and Organizations

Handwritten signature 355-5321
ORDER NOW!
CANDY CO.
1050 So. 1st West P.O. Box 554

HURRY! IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY... 1 TO 6 P.M.

SUNDAY

THIS IS IT! 5 HOURS ONLY! SALE DOORS OPEN 1 P.M. DO

DON'T YOU DARE MISS THIS HISTORIC EVENT! 300 MINUTES OF SENSATIONAL