

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SEIZURES OF CANNABIS EFFECTED AT ATLANTIC COAST AND MEXICAN GULF
PORTS DURING APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 1947

Report No. 1161 Communicated by the Government of the United States
of America on 17 October 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.

No. 1161

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NARCOTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

25 September 1947

1. Date of seizure: See dates given below
2. Place of seizure: See places listed below
3. Name of person or firm implicated: See defendants named below
4. Name of ship: See "Remarks" below
5. Coming from: See "Remarks" below
6. Date of leaving first port:
7. Destination and date of arrival: See "Remarks" below
8. Ports of call: See "Remarks" below
9. Owners or nationality of ship:
10. Kind and quantity of drugs seized: 5 pounds, 1 ounce, 349 grains, (2 kg. 318.9 gr.) net, of marihuana, consisting of the dried, pulverized flowering tops, leaves, seeds, and stems of the cannabis plant in the form most frequently encountered in the United States and Latin America; 9 ounces, 8.5 grains (255.7 grammes) net, of Indian bhang; 2 ounces, 22.5 grains, (58.2 grammes) net, of Indian ganja; 1 pound, 210 grains, (467.2 grammes) net, of Tunisian takrouri; 2 ounces, 340 grains (78.7 grammes) net, of Tunisian chiras; 10 ounces, 296 grains, (302.6 grammes) net, of Turkish hashish
11. Origin of manufacture (marks, labels, etc.): See "Remarks" below
12. Where shipped or forwarded from: See "Remarks" below
13. Forwarding agents or consignors: See "Remarks" below
14. Destination or address: United States
15. Remarks:

There appears below a summary of cannabis seizures effected at Atlantic Coast and Mexican Gulf ports during the months of April, May and June 1947:

Place and date of seizure: Staten Island, New York, April 17, 1947

Names of defendants: Unknown

Quantities of cannabis seized: 8 grains, net, of takrouri (0.5 gramme)

When the American steamship PACIFIC VICTORY arrived from Catania, Messina, Palermo, and New York City, a customs searcher found a small quantity of cannabis seeds and fine particles of cannabis dust on a ventilator in the engineers' toilet, portside.

/Place

"Remarks" - Continued

Place and date of seizure: Jersey City, New Jersey, April 21, 1947
Names of defendants: Erick C. KIAYVERT, American citizen
Quantities of cannabis seized: 190 grains, net, of ganja (12.3 grammes)

A customs officer intercepted Erick C. KIAYVERT, chief steward of the American steamship JOSEPH MUGAS when he came ashore and found a package of ganja in his inside coat pocket. KIAYVERT stated he purchased the ganja from a street peddler in Bombay when his vessel was in that port. The ganja consisted of pressed flowering tops and seeds of the cannabis plant.

Place and date of seizure: New York City, April 27, 1947
Names of defendants: Gilberto A. ESPIER, American citizen of Puerto Rican extraction
Quantities of cannabis seized: 58 grains, net of marihuana (3.8 grammes)

Upon the arrival of the American steamship CRISTOBAL from Colon, a customs officer found a package of marihuana concealed on the person of Gilberto A. ESPIER, utilityman.

Place and date of seizure: Brooklyn, New York, April 28, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 1 ounce, 270 grains, (45.9 grammes) net, of ganja; 8 ounces, 435 grains, (255 grammes) net, of bhang.

Four seizures of ganja and bhang were made by customs officers on the American steamship GREAT FALLS VICTORY after its arrival from Zanzibar, Dar-Es-Salaam, Mombasa, Mikindani, Durban, and Port-of-Spain. A package containing 78 grains (5.1 grammes) of flat ganja was found on top of a ventilator at foot of stairs leading to the steering gear. A package containing 105 grains (6.8 grammes) of bhang was discovered under pipe covering by No. 5 hatch, portside, aft. A bag holding 8 ounces, 330 grains (248.2 grammes) of bhang was seen on a ledge in the fidleys. Under a deck winch, portside, aft, was found a package of flat ganja weighing 1 ounce, 192 grains (40.8 grammes). The ganja consisted of the flowering tops of the cannabis plant pressed into a thin flat cake, while the bhang was in the form of coarsely pulverized flowering tops and leaves of the plant.

Place and date of seizure: Brooklyn, New York, April 29, 1947
Names of defendants: Not to be named
Quantities of cannabis seized: 2 pounds, 3 ounces, 242.5 grains, (1 kg. 7.9 grammes) net of birdseed containing 5 percent marihuana seed.

When the Brazilian steamship COMANDANTE LYRA arrived from Rio de Janeiro, two packages of birdseed containing fertile marihuana seeds were found in the quarters of the chief engineer and the chief mate. The birdseed was seized but no action taken with regard to the two ship's officers.

Place and date of seizure: New York City, April 29, 1947
Names of defendants: Richard LOPEZ, American citizen
Quantities of cannabis seized: 9 grains, net (0.6 gramme) of takrouri.

A customs officer found five takrouri cigarettes on the person of Richard LOPEZ, porter on the American steamship MARINE SHARK, arrived in port from Casablanca, Palermo and Naples. The cigarettes were wrapped in paper bearing the water-mark "Bambu", which cigarette paper is a product of Portugal.

/Place

"Remarks" - Continued

Place and date of seizure: Brooklyn, New York, May 5, 1947

Names of defendants: Unknown

Quantities of cannabis seized: 2 pounds, 8 ounces, 410 grains (1 kg. 160.5 grammes) net of marihuana.

When the American steamship AFRICAN STAR arrived from Lourenco Marquis, Beira, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Capetown, and Port of Spain, customs searchers made the following marihuana seizures: 10 ounces, 130 grains (291.9 grammes) over a vent in the starboard working alley; 8 ounces, 190 grains, (239.1 grammes) on a ledge in the smoke-stack; 1 pound, 6 ounces, 90 grains (629.5 grammes), over a ventilator in thwartships, work alley outside the crew toilet. The term "marihuana" is used inasmuch as the substances seized have not been identified as any other variety of cannabis. However, in view of the itinerary of the vessel it is possible that the seizure consisted of either takrouri, kif, or dagga.

Place and date of seizure: Jersey City, New Jersey, May 7, 1947

Names of defendants: Unknown

Quantities of cannabis seized: 11 grains, (0.7 gramme) net, of bhang.

A customs officer found a package of bhang on a ventilator in the working alleyway, portside of the American steamship SCOTT E. LAND, arrived in port from Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Cochin, Colombo, Bombay, Suez, Port Said, Alexandria, Naples, Genoa, Marseille, and New York.

Place and date of seizure: New Orleans, Louisiana, May 7, 1947

Name of defendants: T. W. RITCHE and Henry L. BRYANT, American citizens

Quantities of cannabis seized: 2 ounces, 216 grains, (70.7 grammes) net, of takrouri.

Because of information furnished by the Bureau of Customs that crewmembers of the American steamship FRANCIS DRAKE were smuggling narcotics, diamonds, and perfume, the vessel was given a special search when it arrived. Two 1-ounce (57.7 grammes) bottles were found in the room of the second mate and were seized, and perfume, scarfs, tablecloths, and one automatic pistol were found in the crew quarters and seized. A bottle of takrouri, weighing 2 ounces, 48 grains (59.8 grammes) was found on a frame in the steering gear, aft; a package and a cigarette of takrouri, weighing 91 grains (5.9 grammes), on the person of T. W. RITCHE, crewmember; and 77 grains (5 grammes) of takrouri in the locker of Henry L. BRYANT, member of the crew. The vessel arrived from Bizerte.

Place and date of seizure: Hoboken, New Jersey, May 16, 1947

Names of defendants: Alfred BELL; Theodore JOHNSON; and Harold MOORE; American citizens

Quantities of cannabis seized: 2 ounces, 30.5 grains (58.7 grammes) net, of takrouri.

When the American steamship SAMUEL BLATCHFORD arrived from Antwerp, customs searchers were handed 1 ounce, 183 grains (40.2 grammes) of takrouri which had been found by ship's officers in the quarters of the above named. A package of takrouri, weighing 285 grains, (18.5 grammes) was found by customs officers behind pipes in the laundry.

/Place

"Remarks" - Continued

Place and date of seizure: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 299 grains, (19.4 grammes) net, of marihuana.

Customs officers found four packages of marihuana in the after-peak rope locker of the American steamship HORSESHOE which came into port from Tampico.

Place and date of seizure: Boston, Massachusetts, May 22, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 44 grains (2.8 grammes) net, of marihuana

A representative of the American Merchant Marine Library notified a customs officer that while examining some books returned from vessels she found ten marihuana cigarettes concealed between the cover and the cheesecloth that covers the pages where they are stitched in the binding of the book. It is believed that the books were returned from the steamship ANTONIOUS which arrived from Rotterdam.

Place and date of seizure: Staten Island, New York, May 26, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 2 ounces, 340 grains, (78.7 grammes) net of chiras; 11 ounces, 100 grains (318.3 grammes) net of takrouri.

After the American steamship SAMUEL GRIFFIN arrived from Majunga, Madagascar, Tamatave, Port Luis Mauritius, Pointe des Galets, Lourenco Marques, and Durban, a carton of chiras was found on a ledge outside of the ship's laundry. In the laundry behind washing pails and tubs was found a carton of damp moldy takrouri.

Place and date of seizure: Staten Island, New York, May 27, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 143 grains, (9.3 grammes), net of marihuana.

A package of marihuana was found in the pocket of an unidentified jacket hanging on the wall of the seamen's quarters of the American steamship BUCYRUS VICTORY, arrived from Batavia, Soerabaya, Singapore, Port Swettenham, Aden and Port Said.

Place and date of seizure: Hoboken, New Jersey, May 27, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 97 grains, (6.3 grammes) net of marihuana.

Upon the arrival of the Panamanian steamship from Liverpool, a customs searcher found a tin containing 97 grains of marihuana on top of a ventilator in the toilet.

Place and date of seizure: Jersey City, New Jersey, May 28, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 65 grains, (4.2 grammes) net, of takrouri.

During a search of the American steamship CROSBY VICTORY, arrived from Genoa and Lisbon, a customs officer found a package of takrouri behind electric wiring opposite the seamen's quarters, starboard side, amidship.

/Place

"Remarks" - Continued

Place and date of seizure: New York City, June 3, 1947
Names of defendants: Diego Castillo GRACIA; and George KERR; American citizens, the former of Puerto Rican extraction
Quantities of cannabis seized: 2 ounces 15 grains (57.7 grammes) net, of marihuana.

There were four seizures of marihuana made by customs aboard the American steamship CAFE ANN when it arrived from Colon, Barranquilla, and Cartagena. Three packages of marihuana, weighing 405 grains (26.2 grammes) were found in the quarters of defendant GARCIA, messman; 200 grains (13 grammes) of marihuana in the gear room under rags; 231 grains (15 grammes) of marihuana on a ledge in the portside alleyway; and 54 grains (3.5 grammes) of marihuana in the quarters of defendant KERR, wiper.

Place and date of seizure: Brooklyn, New York, June 3, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 1 ounce, 353 grains (51.2 grammes) net, of marihuana.

A customs officer searching the American steamship MORMACSUN, arrived from Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Bahia, and Trinidad, found a package of marihuana under dirty waste paper outside of the main galley.

Place and date of seizure: New York City, June 11, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 10 ounces, 178 grains, (295 grammes) net of hashish.

When the American steamship JERICHO VICTORY arrived from Marseille, a number of cakes of hashish were found under bags of flour in the dry storeroom.

Place and date of seizure: New Orleans, Louisiana, June 11, 1947
Names of defendants: Unknown
Quantities of cannabis seized: 26 grains (1.7 grammes) net, of takrouri.

A package of takrouri was found by a customs searcher on a beam in the officer's passageway, starboard side, of the American steamship DAVID L. YULEE, arrived in port from Rouen.

Place and date of seizure: Norfolk, Virginia, June 13, 1947
Names of defendants: Louis BROWN; and Ervin SPRAGLIN; American negroes
Quantities of cannabis seized: 118 grains (7.6 grammes) net, of hashish, 193 grains (12.5 grammes) net of takrouri.

A customs officer searched the quarters aboard the American steamship THOMAS H. SUMNER of Louis BROWN, crewmember, and found a sack of hashish therein. BROWN stated he obtained the hashish when the vessel was in Piraeus. In the clothing of Ervin SPRAGLIN, member of the crew, were found fifteen takrouri cigarettes, weighing 75 grains, (4.9 grammes) and 118 grains (7.6 grammes) of loose takrouri (mostly seeds). This defendant stated he obtained the takrouri in Marseille in bulk form and rolled fifteen cigarettes from it by picking out the leaves and leaving most of the seeds. The vessel, as will be noted, arrived from Piraeus and Marseille.

(signed) H. J. Anslinger

H. J. ANSLINGER
Commissioner of Narcotics