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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONVENTION FOR LIMITING THE MANUFACTURE AND
REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS OF 13 JULY 1931
AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 11 DECEMBER 1946CANADASEIZURE OF 333 GRAMMES OF OPIUM AT VANCOUVER, B.C.
ON MAY 13, 1946Report No. 17 communicated by the Government of Canada
November 29, 1946Note 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 seizure to the Members of the United Nations and to the other parties to the Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

1. Name of person or persons implicated: Donald John Patric Price, Can.
(b.29.2.1895)
Arthur Lowes, English (b.17.6.07)
John Moran, Canadian (b.13.3.10)
Bella Moran, Canadian (b.13.3.13)
2. Date of Seizure: 13th May 1946
3. Place of Seizure: Vancouver, B.C.
4. Kind and quantity of drug seized: OPIUM: In decks -- 325 grains: In jars -- 11 ozs.
= 11 ozs. 325 grns. (333 grammes)
5. Act and Section under which charged: C. & N.D. Act. Sec. 4(d) "Possession of Opium"
6. Result of prosecution:
 - (a) Date sentenced: 13.6.46.
 - (b) Where sentenced: Vancouver, B.C.
 - (c) Sentence: Price and Moran each sentenced to two years; fined \$200 or one month; Lowes was given one year; fined \$200 or one month; the case against Bella Moran was dismissed.
7. Remarks:

At 1 a.m. on May 11th, 1946, members of the Vancouver City Police Force passed on to Federal Narcotic Authorities what was considered to be very reliable information. The story was to the effect that a man (as yet unidentified), a former friend of Donald Price, had entered Canada from the U.S.A. and had made a proposition

that Price buy two or more cans of Opium for \$1500. Not having the money, Price approached his friend, John Moran, operator of a boot-legging joint, for a loan. Moran would not loan the cash but said that he would purchase the Opium and let Price do the distributing after it was put up in decks, and each would make for themselves a lot of money. It was also learned that Moran, at the time, was staying at the Newport Hotel in Vancouver with his common-in-law wife, Bella Moran, and that he had recently purchased an automobile for which he paid \$1700 in cash, Licence No. of which was "B.C. 66-806". Price and Moran apparently came to an understanding as it was gathered that during the early morning hours of the same day, (11.5.46.) arrangements had been made with the man from the U.S.A. for delivery of the Opium around nine or ten o'clock that morning. In the meantime Moran's car had been located and observation was immediately commenced. This was at 2.30 a.m. and shortly afterwards Moran drove away, but there being little or no traffic on the streets at that hour, it was impossible to follow Moran without arousing his suspicions, and it was not until 11 p.m. that night that news came from an Agent that Moran and Price had succeeded in obtaining Opium at approximately 6.30 a.m. and that between 10 and 11 a.m. they had driven to the Newport Hotel where, it was stated, Bella Moran had been practically dragged out of bed and forced to accompany them on a trip, supposedly for the purpose of doing some cooking for a couple of days. It was not known where they had then gone but if the Opium had been obtained, as reported, it was expected that they would proceed to some quiet place in order to cook it and deck it up. A thorough check then began of all Auto Camps and Hotels and at 4 p.m. next day (May 12th) a car which resembled and turned out to be Moran's was seen backed into a garage at the Saskatoon Auto Court, approximately eight miles East of Chilliwack. Continued observation was maintained from a distance and persons could be seen close to a window of a cabin suspected of being used by the suspects. By various means it was definitely established that the cabin was occupied by Moran, his wife, and Price, and also by a well known drug addict, Arthur Lowes. At about 5.15 a.m., May 13th, the lights of the cabin were seen to go out and Moran's car pulled out of the Auto Court Yard onto the highway, proceeding in the direction of Vancouver. As it was considered inadvisable to follow behind Moran's car, other members of the Federal Narcotic Squad in Vancouver were communicated with by phone from a Service Station on the highway and given all the necessary details. Moran's car was subsequently successfully stopped and searched and a large quantity of Opium, as set forth at top of this report was located either on the persons of the four occupants or in the automobile. They were all duly warned and placed under arrest. The car, a 1941 Buick, was seized under Section 21 of the Drug Act. A roll of paper used in decking up Opium was also found in a suitcase. This paper was found to be identical to the paper used in the decks confiscated and was proof positive, if any other were needed, of the purpose to which the Opium purchased was to be put. Information was later obtained that Lowes was taken along to help deck up the Opium and he was to be the main street pedlar. It was also ascertained that when Moran and Price first received the Opium it was in crude form and that it had been boiled down to prepared Opium at the Auto Camp.

Trial took place on the 13th June 1946, when Moran and Price pleaded Guilty, being sentenced as shown. Lowes pleaded Not Guilty but was found Guilty and duly sentenced.

Moran gave evidence in defense of Bella Moran, who had pleaded Not Guilty. He stated that Bella did not have any knowledge of the drugs and that he had forced her to go on the trip and that he had put the jars of Opium into her purse before leaving the Auto Camp.

Crown Counsel subjected Moran to a severe cross-examination. He admitted that he was a bootlegger and that he had been using narcotics periodically for the last two years and that he had paid \$500 for the Opium which he intended for his own use and did not intend to distribute it. The fact that quite a large quantity of the Opium had been put up in decks (about 100 decks were seized) together with the roll of decking paper, tends to disprove this statement. At this time Opium was selling on the streets of Vancouver for from \$8.00 to \$10.00 a deck. Bella Moran gave evidence in her own defense to the effect that she was forced to accompany the other three and knew nothing about the Opium although she did admit, in cross-examination, that she suspected on the return trip that Moran had narcotics in the car. The charges against her were dismissed.

Although all have previous criminal records, Price is the only one who has been previously charged with a narcotic offence. On May 11, 1944, he was found Guilty at Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., of a violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act and sentenced to sixty days in country jail and fined \$500 (SO #18957).

Only by the splendid cooperation of both Federal and City Police officers could these cases have been brought to a successful conclusion.

"The man from the U.S.A." who is alleged to have sold the block of Opium to Moran and is believed to have come off a ship which docked at Vancouver, has not as yet been identified but the investigation is continuing.

Sgd. K.C. HOSSICK
Acting Chief, Narcotic Division

15.9.46.