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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 1946

CANADA

Seizure of 198.5 Grammes of Diacetylmorphine at Vancouver, B.C.
on 17 June 1947

Report No. 55 Communicated by the Government of Canada
on 29 November 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 seizure to the Members of the United Nations and to the other parties to the Convention.

/DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

No. 55

1. Name of person or persons implicated: William Goriak DICK (Occupation: Carnival Operator) (Canadian) (born: January 24, 1914).
2. Date of Seizure: June 17th, 1947.
3. Place of Seizure: Vancouver, B.C.
4. Kind and Quantity of Drug Seized: Diacetylmorphine: 7 ounces (198.5 grammes).
5. Act and Section under which charged: Opium and Narcotic Drug Act Section 4(d) "Illegal Possession of Heroin".
6. Result of Prosecution:
 - (a) Date sentenced: September 23, 1947.
 - (b) Where sentenced: Vancouver, B.C.
 - (c) Sentence: 5 years, with hard labour; fined \$500* or 3 months.
7. Remarks:

On June 15, 1947 a long distance telephone call was received by Vancouver, B.C., Federal Narcotic Authorities to the effect that one John Serniuk had shipped from Toronto, Ont., six ounces or more of Brown Heroin in a new teal blue metal suitcase with two old leather straps around it. Later, it was learned that the suitcase in question had passed through Calgary, Alberta, that morning (the 15th) and was due to arrive at Vancouver on June 16th. From other information it was also known that Serniuk, after checking the suitcase through on his ticket, had forwarded baggage check to some unknown person in Vancouver who would pick up the article from C.P.R. baggage room on its arrival. In order to be able to readily identify the suitcase operatives boarded C.P.R. train No. 7 down the line at Coquitlam, B.C., and searched baggage car while train was en route to Vancouver. The officers were successful in their efforts, locating the suitcase which bore baggage check No. D-11-29-38. The suitcase was opened and in the left shoe of a pair of brown and white Oxfords was found a brown paper bag containing approximately seven ounces of a brown-greyish powder, a sample of which was extracted and placed in an envelope which was sealed and initialled and dated by the officers for future identification purposes. The suitcase was relocked and taken into police custody. On arriving at Vancouver at about 10.35 a.m. on the 16th June, the suitcase was taken to the Baggage Master's office where it was re-opened in the presence of other officers who had been duly notified of the find. The Heroin was removed, placed in a large brown envelope, sealed and initialled and, with previous extracted sample, taken to the Dominion Analyst who furnished a Certificate stating the Exhibit analysed as Diacetylmorphine. A substitute

* Note by the Secretariat: Canadian \$1 = U.S.A. \$1.

/was made up

was made up for the Heroin removed from the suitcase, which was repacked, locked and taken to the Baggage Room by a Narcotic Squad Officer who was detailed to work with other Baggage Clerks and who kept the suitcase under his control at all times. Now began a ceaseless watch by Officers who, in addition to the extra "Baggage Clerk" had been posted at various points of vantage; a couple of undercover vehicles had also been stationed at strategic spots. At 6.05 p.m. on the 17th June a man (later identified as the accused) approached the baggage counter and presented Check No. D-11-29-38 to the pseudo Baggage Clerk who immediately gave a pre-arranged signal to officers under cover watching proceedings that the man they had been waiting for had at last turned up. Subject paid the storage due on suitcase which he then picked up, carried to his car (a 1947 Mercury) and drove away, and by devious routes through the city reached Stanley Park where he was forced to the side of the road by Officers who had been trailing him in an undercover conveyance. Dick, with suitcase, was taken to Police Headquarters where he was placed under arrest and given the usual warning. He admitted receiving the baggage check through the mail from Toronto and picking up the suitcase covered by the check in question. He said he was "slightly surprised" at receiving a suitcase having expected to get a large carton in which he would find prizes for a carnival. The suitcase was opened in his presence and when asked if there were any carnival prizes in it he just took a look at an overcoat which was on top, lifting it slightly and admitted there was nothing insofar as prizes were concerned. When shown the package of Heroin he denied all knowledge of it. A search of Dick's person disclosed a wallet in which there was a card bearing the name of "J. SERNIUK". Dick was charged with "Illegal Possession", to which he pleaded Not Guilty. He was, however, found Guilty and sentenced on September 23rd as stated above. The automobile used by Dick was confiscated under Section 21 of the Drug Act.

Investigation as to the main source of supply in Toronto, Ont., is being carried out. (J. Serniuk, who is the subject of a separate report, No. 56) was arrested on June 18, 1947 at Calgary, Alberta, while en route to Vancouver, where he was charged under Section 4(a) of the Drug Act; he was brought to trial on September 22, 1947, convicted and sentenced to 7 years, with hard labour, fined \$1000 or 6 months).

Signed: K.C. Hossick

(K.C. Hossick),

Chief, Narcotic Division.

JS/JC

Ottawa, Ont.

November 12, 1947.
