

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCILCONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIALE/NS.1947/45
31 March 1947

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 26.1 GRAMMES OF OPIUM AT VANCOUVER, B.C.
ON NOVEMBER 15, 1945Report No. 10 communicated by the Government of Canada
June 26, 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: Joseph Lionel Leduc: Canadian
(b. 3.11.1911)
George Paralis: Canadian
(Age: 60 or more)
2. Date of Seizure: 15.11.45.
3. Place of Seizure: Vancouver, B.C.
4. Kind and Quantity of drug seized: 102 Decks of Opium (408 grains)
(26.1 grammes)
5. Act and Section under which charged: O. & N.D. Act. Sec. 4(1) "Possession of Opium"
6. Result of prosecution:
 - (a) Date sentenced: Leduc: 10.12.45.
Paralis: 2.3.46.
 - (b) Where sentenced: Vancouver, B.C.
 - (c) Sentence: Leduc: 4 years: fined \$200 or 1 month in default of payment.
Paralis: 3 years; fined \$200 or 1 month in default of payment.

7. Remarks:

Leduc has a lengthy criminal record dating back to 1928; this, however, was his first offence under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, and he has not been in trouble since 1939. In the present case, Leduc was obviously acting as a "stooge" for Paradis.

Paradis, now well on in years, is a well known and previously convicted drug trafficker with a narcotic history dating back to 1913, and has been addicted to narcotics for many years. Some years ago a very extensive and prolonged investigation was in process in Vancouver, B.C., with a view to establishing the foreign source from which large quantities of Morphine were reaching Vancouver, and establishing the identity of those responsible for the distribution thereof. It can now be stated that it was through Paradis, who had recently been convicted for a breach of the Drug Act and sentenced to five years, that some valuable but inclusive information was obtained, which, however, was susceptible of development to the point that later it was possible to arrest three Japanese and two white men who were convicted in October, 1936, in Vancouver, and received sentences ranging from three years to seven years with lashes. The case was considered one of the most important and far reaching conspiracies that had ever occurred in connection with the drug traffic in Western Canada.

In view, therefore, of the past history of Paradis, and when it was learned at the beginning of November, 1945, that Paradis was selling Opium by the Deck, steps were immediately taken to cover his movements and activities in order to effect his arrest and, if at all possible, the persons from whom he was getting his supplies. Early investigation proved beyond doubt that Paradis was buying his Opium from a Chinese resident on Vancouver Island, at Nanaimo, B.C. According to information received from an Agent, Paradis was invariably accompanied by a man known as "Frenchie" (Leduc) who, as it eventually turned out, carried the narcotics. The fact that the journey to Nanaimo necessitated a boat trip from Vancouver called for the closest cooperation of all the forces engaged in tracking him down. The inaccessibility of Nanaimo Chinatown, which is built on a hill-top, also made the task of covering any "buys" a problem. The difficulty, however, was solved by arranging for two members of the Police (unknown to Paradis) to live under cover in that town.

The efforts and patience of those detailed to cover and trail Paradis were soon to be brought to a successful conclusion when on the 14th of November, 1946, it was gathered through the apprehension and interrogation of a Chinaman that Paradis had bought over one hundred decks of Opium in Nanaimo at, so it was learned, \$7.00 a deck. (About this time Opium was selling on the streets in Vancouver at \$10.00 a deck.) As previously stated, Leduc accompanied Paradis on his various trips. On this occasion, instead of taking the boat from Nanaimo, they took the bus to Victoria with the intention of leaving by boat at 7 a.m. the following morning (the 15th). This information was duly transmitted to the Vancouver end and members of the Police Force were on hand when the boat docked. Paradis was seen to get off the boat and was allowed to go outside the Pier terminal. He was closely followed by the junior partner, Leduc. They were both grabbed and on the person of Leduc was found in his suit-coat a box which contained one hundred and two decks of Opium. With the exception of an eye-dropper which did not bear any traces of Opium, the search of Paradis had negative results. As there was no doubt that Leduc was carrying Opium for Paradis, they were jointly charged with possession of Opium. Leduc, who elected to

be tried by a Magistrate, pleaded Guilty and was given the exemplary sentence of four years for this his first offence under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. Paradis pleaded Not Guilty and was committed to stand trial by a Higher Court. At the trial Counsel for Paradis argued for Dismissal on the grounds that no evidence had been entered to show that he knew anything about the narcotics found in Leduc's pocket. During the course of the trial it was stated that after being warned Paradis had said, in the presence of a Detective Sergeant and a Constable, "I am sorry I got you into this, Frenchie. I am going to plead Guilty and do the best I can for you". Crown Counsel drew the Court's attention to the statement which, he said, showed definitely that Paradis had full knowledge that Leduc was carrying narcotics. The Court was of the same opinion and sentenced Paradis to three years.

Following the arrest of Paradis and Leduc, the investigation concerning the source from which they had obtained their narcotic supplies was continued and on the 1st of March, 1946, two Chinamen were arrested and subsequently convicted. It is believed that these Chinamen got their supplies from Lascars aboard freighters at Westminster. Details regarding these two cases have been furnished separately. (See Mah Buck Hin and Wong Ah Doc.)

Sgt. K.C. HOSEICK
Acting Chief, Narcotic Division

June 15, 1946.