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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 OPIUM, YEN SHEE AND LIQUID SUEY WATER MADE AT
VANCOUVER, B.C. ON 29 APRIL 1947

Report No. 33 Communicated by the Government of Canada
on 23 July 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

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

No. 33

Report Communicated by the Government of Canada

1. Name of person or persons implicated:
 - (i) Howe Yee (Seaman) (From Shanghai: born 1918)
 - (ii) Siew Ah Kwang (Quartermaster) (From Canton: born 17-9-1915)
 - (iii) Yean Yean (Marine Fireman) (From Canton: born 1-3-1909)
2. Date of Seizure: April 29, 1947
3. Place of Seizure: Vancouver, B.C.
4. Kind and Quantity of drug seized:

Opium: 144 ounces, or 9 lbs (4 kgs. 082.3 grs.)

Yen Shee: 3 ozs., 15 grains (86.02 grammes)

Liquid Suey Water: 6 ozs. (170.1 grammes)

and Opium Smoking paraphernalia
5. Act and Section under which charged:
 - (i) Howe Yee: Sec. 4 (a) Opium and Narcotic Drug Act: "Unlawfully importing Opium"
 - (ii) Siew Ah Kwang: Sec. 4 (d) Opium and Narcotic Drug Act: "Illegal Possession of Opium"
 - (iii) Yean Yean: Sec. 4 (d) Opium and Narcotic Drug Act: "Illegal Possession of Opium"
6. Result of prosecution:
 - (a) Date Sentenced: May 8, 1947
 - (b) Where Sentenced: Vancouver, B.C.
 - (c) Sentence:
 - (i) Howe Yee: Remanded to end of Assizes for sentence.
 - (ii) Siew Ah Kwang: 1 year, \$200 or 1 month in default of payment.
 - (iii) Yean Yean: 6 months, \$200 or 1 month in default of payment.(Under Sec. 26 of the Act, Deportation is automatic)
7. Remarks:

When the Australian S.S. "SUVA" arrived at the Port of Vancouver, B.C., on the evening of April 29th, 1947, a Customs Officer accosted Howe Yee after he had left the vessel. A search of Howe Yee disclosed that he was carrying ten cans of a brown, thick and sticky substance which, upon analysis, proved to be Opium. The average weight of each can was about eight ounces: total weight being approximately 82 ozs., 166 grains (2 kgs. 335.4 grs.). A quantitative analysis revealed that the Opium seized had a Morphine content of 11.68%. The containers of six of the ten cans of Opium seized were talcum powder tins, "Evening in Paris, Bourjois";
/the other

the other four were "Ve Sien" flavouring powder tins, the latter being manufactured by the TIEN YUEN factory at Shanghai.

As a result of above seizure a squad of Federal Police Officers boarded the "SUVA" and proceeded with a systematic search.

In a locker and among the personal effects of Siew Ah Kwang was found three jars containing about 3 ozs. 371 grains (109.1 grammes) of a substance which turned out to be Opium.

A complete opium smoking lay-out was discovered in Yean Yean's cabin; a small jar containing a quantity of brown substance (analyzed Opium) was also found, and six two ounce bottles (340.2 grammes) containing Opium were seized.

The three subjects, who are drug addicts, were arrested and after the usual warning charged as previously stated. At their trials Howe Yee and Siew Ah Kwang pleaded 'Guilty', Yean Yean 'Not Guilty'. (Note: After the preliminary Hearing, and pending trial, bail in each case was set at the tremendously high sum of \$25,000).

Other seizures of Opium were made, as under, but in these cases ownership could not be established:

Seven sticks weighing 40 ozs., 332 grains (1 kg. 155.5 grs.), were found in a canvas wrapped parcel underneath a lifebelt storage box. (Morphine content: 4.69%). Also a tin of Yen Shee: weight 3 ozs., 15 grains, (86 grammes), and a can containing traces of Opium.

A piece of Gum Opium, approximately 5 ozs., 106 grains (148.6 grammes) in weight, semi-circular in shape and 3/4" thick, (1.9 cm.), contained in a canvas parcel, tightly sewn, was discovered under one of the towing bitts; also a tin containing 6 ozs., (170.1 grammes), of liquid suey water.

This seizure represents the largest that has been effected on the West Coast of Canada in years and although it has not been possible to definitely establish the place from which the opium originated, Howe Yee's story is to the effect that he purchased it in Sydney, Australia, from a Chinese, whom he would identify only as 'Charlie', at 15 English pounds a can. Siew Ah Kwang likewise claimed he bought his opium in Sydney, not from 'Charlie', but from one AH QUON who, it is understood, is Secretary of a Seamen's Union. (The Captain of the ship remarked, during an interview; that this man appeared to be very friendly towards members of the crew).

The "SUVA" is owned and operated by the Carpenter Line of Sydney, Australia, and arrived at the Port of Vancouver on April 29, 1947, as previously stated. Prior to docking at Vancouver the vessel called at Honolulu, T.H., and Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. It was learned during /the investigations

the investigations that the ten cans of Opium brought over by Howe Yee were originally intended for San Francisco, California, U.S.A. This was partly substantiated by the fact that a Chinese named LIM FOO YIN of San Francisco had been in Seattle about two weeks prior to the arrival of the "SUVA" at that Port making numerous enquiries concerning date of arrival. However, whatever intentions Howe Yee had regarding disposal of the Opium, keen watchfulness on the part of United States authorities frustrated any attempt to smuggle the contraband ashore at Seattle.

Some other rather interesting points also came to light during the course of the investigations. According to the Captain of the ship, he had all new Officers and a new crew and, that this was the first time that any of the Officers had sailed with a Chinese crew (there were 41 aboard); that they had never previously seen Opium in any form and that they had no idea that the smoking of Opium had been indulged in aboard ship. The Captain also stated that shore leave when the boat docked at Seattle had been refused and that Howe Yee had been most anxious to leave the ship at that point. Seizure action against the ship was taken under consideration, but in view of the circumstances such action was not taken; the Officers, however, were severely warned and at the same time given certain instructions regarding identification and use of narcotics. Fullest co-operation in the future was promised.

The authorities of the U.S.A. have been furnished direct with all the details of this seizure.

Ottawa
27-6-47

(signed) K.C. HOSSICK
Chief, Narcotic Division
