

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCILCONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL

E/NS.1947/49

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 1946.CANADASEIZURE OF 1.152 GRAMMES OF MORPHINE AT TORONTO, ONTARIO
ON DECEMBER 5, 1945Report No. 14 communicated by the Government of Canada
December 2, 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: Harold (Ike) Crellian, Can.,
(b. Sept. 24, 1912)
2. Date of Seizure: December 5, 1945
3. Place of Seizure: Toronto, Ont.
4. Kind and quantity of drug seized: 18 Morphine Capsules, 1 gr. = 18 grs.,
(1.152 gramme)
5. Act and Section under which charged: O. & N.D. Act, Sec. 4(d) "Illegal Possession
of Morphine & Diacetylmorphine" ..
6. Result of prosecution:
 - (a) Date sentenced: 24.6.46.
 - (b) Where sentenced: Toronto, Ont.
 - (c) Sentence: 2 years, less 1 day imprisonment & 3 months indeterminate; fined \$200 or 3 months in default of payment.
7. Remarks:

The subject of this report is a well known criminal addict and, according to his story, both he and his wife "Sally" are "heavily hooked", each using between 25 and 35 capsules (Heroin) a day. Crellian's criminal record dates back to January 1930, having three convictions for breaches of the Drug Act, his last under the Act

being on August 21st, 1942, when he was sentenced to two years, fined \$200 or 6 months; having paid the fine, he was released on April 4th, 1944.

It was just a matter of two months after his release from jail that Crellian again came to the notice of the Police in regard to illicit narcotic activities. Through confidential sources at the disposal of the Police, it became known that Crellian and his wife were peddling narcotics in Toronto, on a large scale, something like 300 capsules of Heroin, it was stated, being disposed of daily. His modus operandi was carefully observed and it was hoped that a slip-up on Crellian's part would lead the authorities to the original source of his supply. Observation was carried on patiently and diligently for months and on numerous occasions when it was known that either he or his wife were carrying capsules (usually 50) they were seized, but on each of these occasions the resultant search proved negative, and it was subsequently ascertained that the fingerstall or prophylactic in which the capsules were carried had been swallowed just prior to apprehension or during the scuffle which ensued when they were seized.

As things were apparently getting too hot, the Crellians decided in the first week of July 1945, upon a trip to Montreal, P.Q., where it was their intention to take a "Cure". It was learned, however, that instead they started selling narcotics on the streets of that city, their supplies being received from a Toronto source. The task of observing and watching the movements and activities of this couple were difficult in the extreme but on the 15th November 1945, Crellian again turned up in Toronto where, according to information received, he was peddling narcotics on a fairly large scale. It was learned that he would be going to a particular Grill, or Cafe, for the purpose of distributing some 25 or 30 Heroin capsules to a few chosen addict customers. The necessary arrangements were made to trail and cover him and at what was considered the appropriate time (12.25 a.m.) he was accosted but just prior to being apprehended he must have followed his usual custom of swallowing whatever narcotics he had in his possession, as when searched no narcotics were found. Police continued their observations with a view to ascertaining Crellian's source of supply and, if possible, to place him in a position making it possible to apprehend him in possession of narcotics.

No definite action was taken as the result of observations and tailing conducted on November 19 and 20th. Further observations and tailing on November 21st, 26th, 27th and 28th did not meet with success.

The City Police also failed in an attempt to apprehend him while in possession of narcotics on December 3rd, 1945. The Police Officers were only twelve feet distant from Crellian when they rushed him but in that short space of time he had thrown the contraceptive containing the capsules into his mouth and swallowed it.

The efforts of the Police, however, ultimately met with success. On the night of December 5th, 1945, he was seen at the junction of two streets by two Police Officers, who had been trailing him, to pass and receive small objects from persons known to be addicts; he then walked along the street and after looking around, he threw a white object onto a lawn. Crellian continued on his way walking up and down other nearby streets eventually returning to the lawn for the purpose, it was surmised, of

retrieving the object he had previously thrown there. As Crellian approached the lawn, he looked around, then stooped to pick up the contraceptive with his right hand which he placed in his overcoat pocket. The two Officers, who were secreted approximately twenty feet distant from Crellian, immediately rushed and seized Crellian, at the same time grabbing his right hand. In the struggle, the contraceptive rolled from his hand to the ground; it was secured, and found to contain 18 capsules. (Note: the Police Officers had previously inspected the object on the lawn and knew that it contained a number of capsules.) When Crellian cried out "Let me up; you've got me", he no doubt appreciated the fact that this time he was caught with the "goods". He was formally arrested and charged on December 6th and in view of the fact that upon analysis the "Heroin" capsules were found to also contain Morphine, he was charged with being in illegal possession of both drugs. He was remanded on bail until the 13th of December 1945, but owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Police, he was not actually brought to trial until June 24th, 1946, when he was sentenced as stated. It might here be stated that Crellian was picked up by the Police at a Sanitarium some miles from Toronto where he had supposedly gone to take a "Cure".

It was learned during the course of this tedious and long drawn out case, that one John CHUEA had stolen some 200 capsules of Heroin from Crellian.

Some interesting facts also came to light during the investigation and although the Police have not, as yet, closed in on the traffickers, who are said to be bringing in the Heroin capsules, they have every reason to believe that Mary M. Rogers, her father a "Pop" Rogers, and Joe Decosta (alias Joseph Costantino) comprise one of the gangs of traffickers. According to confidential information which came to the knowledge of the Federal Police, these persons had visited the U.S.A. on more than one occasion, travelling by plane to Buffalo, N.Y., returning with about 1000 capsules of Heroin. This appears to be startling news but a check-up at the American Air Lines reveals the fact that at least one flight was made by the party on January 4th, 1946, presumably to that city. Cooperation with the Air Line Authorities has been established and this phase of illicit trafficking is receiving careful attention.

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

Sept. 15, 1946.