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Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Extent of the Problem of Drug Abuse in
Trinidad and Tobago

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Commissioners were directed to hold the Enquiry in private and took appropriate steps to ensure the secrecy of their hearings and discussions. Memoranda were invited from members of the public through notices in the press, radio and television. Unfortunately, this approach was not very fruitful and only through careful and persistent efforts were suitable witnesses identified and their testimony obtained. Each witness who appeared before the Commission gave sworn testimony and was very strongly warned to be silent about having given evidence.

1.2 Despite the fact that the Commission went about its task immediately after its appointment it is regretted that it has taken almost two years to produce this Report. It must be stated that the Commission endeavoured to obtain the broadest possible view of the situation in order to appreciate the extent of the problem. In so doing, it was necessary to obtain witnesses not merely from the urban areas of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, but rural places such as Cedros, Toco, Rio Claro and districts in between, and also Tobago. Such an undertaking inevitably took much time, added to which, your Commissioners were not relieved of their normal full-time responsibilities which from time to time inhibited the pursuit of the task. In addition, its progress was considerably hampered from time to time due to unavoidable absences from the country of one or other of its Commissioners.

1.3 The Commission was aware that it had been preceded by an earlier Enquiry into Drug Addiction which produced very valuable data relevant to the sociological, religious, moral, medical and legal viewpoints. It was of the view, therefore, that much valuable data was already available on the causes of the problem and its influence on health. Accordingly, the Commission was of the opinion that its attention ought to be directed to establish the extent of the problem of drug abuse from such aspects as the range of drugs involved, trends in the activity also the number of people involved in trafficking and in its consumption. However, in so doing, the Commission did spend time on the aspects mentioned in the earlier Enquiry to an extent unavoidable in the circumstances.

1.4 In addition to several meetings amongst the Commissioners to determine procedural matters and strategies, a total of forty-four (44) hearings took place during which testimony was recorded from thirty-nine (39) witnesses from various professions, occupations and strata of society. In some instances individual witnesses gave testimony at more than one sitting. The Commission also submits a survey on Drug Abuse among the Secondary School Students of Trinidad and Tobago which was undertaken, at its request, by Mr. Lionel Remy, Psychiatric Social Worker II.

1.5 At the end of February, 1985, the Commission submitted an Interim Report on the Enquiry. However, it must state that although it is convinced that more very valuable information may yet be obtained, it is of the opinion that it would be prudent for it to submit a full report on its findings at this stage due to the obvious and extreme gravity of the situation, and also the dire need for early introduction and continued implementation of remedial measures appropriate to the circumstances. Accordingly the Commission now submits its report under secret cover.

1.6 For reasons of secrecy the Commission has not included names of any of its witnesses in this report but a listing of these persons, together with a verbatim recording of all testimony given before it, is available.

1.7 The Commission finds that it would be very remiss were it not to place on record its sincere appreciation of the work of the many persons who assisted it and particularly those who gave testimony of a very delicate nature and in many instances at extreme personal risk. The Commission also wishes to place on record its deep appreciation and gratitude to the four members of clerical staff for their unstinting devotion to their tasks which took them on very many occasions long beyond their normal hours of work and at times even compelled them to forego their leisure on many non-working days.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION

The terms of reference of the Commission were set out on the Warrants which were issued by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to each of its members at the time of being sworn. A reproduction is made hereunder:

"REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His EXCELLENCY ELLIS EMMANUEL
INNOCENT CLARKE, T.C., President
and Commander-in-Chief of the Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago.

(Sgd) Ellis Clarke
President

Greeting:

To: GARVIN SCOTT, *Esquire*
Dr. MICHAEL BEAUBRUN
LOUIS J. RODRIGUEZ, *Esquire*

'WHEREAS by section 2 of the Commissions of Enquiry Act Chap. 19:01 it is provided *inter alia* that it shall be lawful for the President whenever he shall deem it advisable to issue a Commission appointing one or more commissioners and authorising such Commissioners or any quorum of them therein mentioned to enquire into any matter in which an enquiry would, in the opinion of the President be for the public welfare.

AND WHEREAS I have deemed it advisable that an enquiry be held into the extent of the problem of drug abuse in Trinidad and Tobago.

AND WHEREAS I have deemed it advisable that the said enquiry be held in private.

NOW THEREFORE, I ELLIS EMMANUEL INNOCENT CLARKE, President as aforesaid do hereby in pursuance of the powers vested in me in this behalf by the said Act issue this my Commission appointing you GARVIN SCOTT, MICHAEL BEAUBRUN and LOUIS J. RODRIGUEZ to hold the enquiry into the matter aforesaid.

AND I direct that you the said GARVIN SCOTT shall be Chairman of the said Commission.

AND I further direct that the said Commissioners forthwith proceed at such places and times as may be convenient with due diligence and despatch to enquire into the matter aforesaid and to report to me in writing upon the said matter and to give your opinion and recommendations and to furnish me separately with a full statement of the proceedings of the Commission and the reasons leading to the conclusion at which you have arrived.

AND I do hereby appoint LOUIS J. RODRIGUEZ, Esquire to be the Secretary of the said Commission.

AND THIS MY COMMISSION shall continue subject to any alteration or revocation thereof until you have finally reported.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of
President of the Republic of Trinidad and
Tobago at the Office of the President
St. Ann's, this 27th day of April, 198

THE TASK

2.1 Frequent and disturbing publicity had been given to large finds of marijuana by the Police, to seizures of this substance and also cocaine by Customs officials, and to sentences by the Court for the illegal possession and use of both of these. Frequent too, were public expressions of concern for the mental and physical well-being of persons who use these drugs.

2.2 In all this, because of the illegality of possession and use of such substances, there is a heavy veil of secrecy over the identities of the persons involved and this militates strongly against easy and accurate appreciation of the extent to which the illegal use of drugs had developed in this country.

2.3 It is evident that the problem is not restricted in its implications merely to ones of health but would include factors severely impinging upon the economic life and effect the legal administration in the country, and what is more, bear very serious consequences for the security of the State as its influence upon law enforcement would demonstrate. Moreover, there are apparent political consequences which may arise with an international effect.

2.4 As a consequence, it is necessary for Government to become aware of the wide dimensions of the problems posed by this scourge which threatens to destroy the very fabric of our society. Accordingly, the Commission now reports upon the evidence obtained from witnesses claiming to have first hand knowledge of the matters upon which they gave testimony. The resulting report it is hoped, would assist Government in planning more effectively for the development of the social health and economic viability of Trinidad and Tobago.

DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM

3.1 A. Cocaine

The most striking development during the 1980's has been an explosive increase of cocaine use in Trinidad and Tobago. This increase has reached epidemic proportions in the past three (3) years and closely follows a similar pattern in the Bahamas. (Allen 1984)

The main reasons for this phenomenon have been:

- (a) The geographical location along the trafficking routes between the main producers, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and the major market, the United States. It is significant that Bermuda which has a heroin problem lies on the heroin trafficking route from the Golden Crescent (Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan through Amsterdam to New York).
- (b) The attractive markets in Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas and Bermuda with higher per capita incomes.
- (c) The growth of organised crime with attendant corruption of local officials.
- (d) The falling price of cocaine. A "rock" may now be purchased in Trinidad for as little as TT \$10.00.
- (e) The purity of the cocaine available.
- (f) The high prevalence of free-basing (also called piping, smoking) as the main method of using the drug. This distinguishes the Caribbean from the United States or Canada where nasal ingestion (sniffing or snorting) is still the chief method of using cocaine and usually precedes free-basing by many years. (Watson & Gold 1984). In Trinidad and the Bahamas most users start with free-basing or move to it after a few months. Addiction develops much more rapidly with free-basing than with snorting.
- (g) There seems to have been a deliberate marketing decision in the past two (2) years to sell cocaine already processed for free-basing as "rocks". This has increased the availability of the drug in its most potent form.

3.2 B. Alcohol

Alcohol is still the largest drug problem numerically causing a heavy economic drain. It has been estimated that in Trinidad and Tobago the health costs due to alcohol are \$80 million TT and the cost in terms of lost productivity about \$100 million TT. (Beaubrun 1984).

Prasad, in a survey of the medical wards at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital 1979, showed 47 per cent of male admissions and 5 per cent of female admissions over a six-month period were for alcohol-related illness. (Prasad 1979).

A close inverse relationship ($r = -0.978$) between traffic accidents and the price of beverage alcohol which was reported by Beaubrun in 1977 has continued but there has been a tendency for cocaine to skew the graphs during the past few years. (Beaubrun 1977 & 1984).

There is some evidence that hospital admissions for alcoholism and alcohol-related accidents have declined with tax increase. Availability, including economic availability, still seems to be the major factor in determining alcohol and drug problems in the region.

3.3 C. Marijuana (*Cannabis*)

During the 1970's there was a significant rise in the use of marijuana. In Trinidad and Tobago there has been increased Police activity in destroying marijuana fields but there seems to be a decline in the numbers of persons charged and quantities seized in the past two years. More cannabis-related admissions have been recorded by Dr. Marceau from the small psychiatric unit at the San Fernando General Hospital, but not the Port-of-Spain Hospital Unit. *include fetes and discos*

3.4 D. Prescription Drugs

Benzodiazepines are the prescription drugs mainly abused. There has been a tendency for the shorter acting Benzodiazepines such as Lorazepam (Ativan) to cause dependency more than the longer acting ones and there is need for greater vigilance by the drug inspectorate and for more education of pharmacists and doctors. There is a little abuse of Meperidine by doctors who have access to it. (*Beaubrun* 1984)

3.5 E. Other Drugs

There is a little use of Lysergic Acid (L.S.D.), psilocybine Phencyclidone (P.C.P.) especially at Carnival but the problems posed by these drugs have been minimal. Opiates other than meperidine are not yet a significant problem and very few heroin users have come to medical attention.

EVIDENCE FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

3.6 Tables, graphs and histograms appended to this report include:

Appendix (a) Police data (graphs)

- (a i) Persons charged for cocaine 1978-85
- (a ii) Quantities of cocaine seized 1978-85
- (a iii) Persons charged with marijuana possession 1978-85
- (a iv) Quantities of marijuana seized 1978-85

3.7 These graphs clearly indicate the increase in activities related to cocaine especially since 1982.

3.8 The figures for marijuana are much more variable, peaking in 1982 and 1983 and declining sharply since. It is possible that the increased use of cocaine may account for the decline in the use of marijuana.

- (a v) Table of arrests and quantities seized 1981-85 (for cocaine, marijuana, hashish, morphine, LSD)

Appendix (b) Hospital admission data

- (b i) A histogram showing hospital admissions to the St. Ann's Hospital 1984 showing alcohol and drug-related admissions.

3.9 Alcoholism and alcohol-related illnesses shown as percentages of all admissions declined slightly after 1983. It may be significant that this followed tax increases which increased the cost of alcohol and diminished disposable income.

3.10 Admissions for drug-related problems, mainly marijuana, showed little change. There was no cocaine at all until 1984 when there was a sudden appearance of cocaine-dependent admissions which swamped the facilities of the 20-bed Alcoholism Treatment Centre which recorded more than sixteen (16) admissions per month by the third month of 1985. Soon after this the Centre refused all cocaine admissions as a matter of policy.

- (b ii) The Psychiatric Unit (Ward 8) of the Port-of-Spain General Hospital.

3.11 Histograms from a study by a medical student, Mr. Ian Sammy, show a sudden increase in drug admissions to Ward 8. Of these 84 per cent were cocaine related. Before 1984 there had been only one or two cocaine-related admissions but by July to August, 1985 there were fifteen (15) or more per month and a new policy had to be adopted. A screening clinic is now in operation and only psychotic or urgent cases or selected research cases are accepted.

3.12 A new drug abuse rehabilitation centre of fifty (50) beds is to be opened at Caura shortly.

Appendix (c) *Survey Data*

Two surveys of significance have been carried out in 1985.

- (i) A survey of drug use in Secondary Schools by Mr. Lionel Remy, who was seconded to the Commission of Enquiry into Drug Abuse. The survey was done under the direction of Professor Beaubrun, a member of the Commission.
- (ii) A nationwide survey of drug use in a sample of 3,023 students and unemployed youths age 14-20 carried out by Mr. Lennox Bernard of the Department of Education, University of the West Indies. Only preliminary reports are available at this time.

Studies previously carried out were a survey (1969) by the Central Statistical Office for the Pantin Commission of Enquiry and a 1983 study by the Health Education Division among a selected group of 520 Secondary School students age 13-20. Neither of those two studies indicated any cocaine use though 8 per cent of the (1969) study and 12.3 per cent of the 1983 study reported using drugs, presumably marijuana.

THE 1985 STUDIES

3.13 (1.) *Remy:*

The following table from a study by Remy shows some comparative data from Bermuda, the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago. The use of cocaine reported in the Bahamas and Tobago seems surprisingly low but this is because the age range of the sample was 11-19. It would seem that most drug use is among those who have just left school.

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PER CENT PREVALENCE AND REGENCY OF DRUG USE AMONG SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS OF SELECTED COUNTRIES

Drug	BERMUDA			BAHAMAS			TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO		
	Ever	Past 12 months	Past 20 days	Ever	Past 12 months	Past 20 days	Ever	Past 12 months	Past 20 days
Alcohol ...	71.6	52.4	24.6	56.1	—	—	91.9	76.0	36.4
Marijuana ...	25.1	15.8	10.6	3.5	—	—	6.3	2.0	1.2
Cocaine ...	1.9	1.2	1.0	0.6	—	—	1.1	0.5	0.4

Sources: 1. Royal Commission Bermuda Secondary School Survey, 1983.
2. Bahamas National Drug Task Force Survey of Selected Secondary Schools, 1984.
3. Trinidad and Tobago Commission of Enquiry into Drug Abuse Secondary School Survey, 1985.

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3.14 (2.) *Bernard*

The study by Lennox Bernard included students up to the age of 20 and those in youth camps and reform school. Findings were that 16 years was the decisive age that drugs including alcohol were most frequently used. Alcohol was the most widely used drug with marijuana and cocaine following in that order. 80.9 per cent of the Bernard survey had used alcohol, 21 per cent cigarettes, 10 per cent smoked marijuana and 3.3 per cent had used cocaine. Compared to this the study by Remy in the Secondary Schools showed 91.9 per cent had used alcohol ever, 6.3 per cent marijuana and 1.1 per cent cocaine.

Bernard reported that drug use was highest in adolescents from stable homes with two-parent families and this finding has caused some public protest. This finding is not surprising however, in that children with the most pocket money are the ones most at risk. In other words the factor of economic availability is ever present. It would only be meaningful to compare single-parent and two-parent homes if the factor of income was controlled.

Bernard reported among the reasons for drug use, peer pressure 20.1 per cent, curiosity 19.5 per cent, search for happiness 7.7 per cent, to stay calm 3.95 per cent and other factors such as pressure at home, loneliness, school work and performance at sport around 1 and 2 per cent. (*Bernard L. 1985.*)

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

3.15 A number of agencies have sprung up in response to the drug problem. Among these are:

- the New Life Ministries which has been mobilising the community, doing parent education and setting up a Rehab. Centre at Mount St. Benedict;
 - the Samaan House which has opened a drop-in Centre and is raising money for a Half-Way House;
 - the Caribbean Action Group (CAG) which is conducting seminars and offering professional help;
 - the National Council on Alcoholism and other Addictions which is the oldest organization in the field and publishes a quarterly Bulletin, does community education, school education and other activities, including an Annual Awareness Week and runs an EAP Development Unit. The National Council also supports the Annual Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and other Drug Problems.
- The Council owns a building and has a paid Executive Director and Secretary. It has a branch office in San Fernando and has recently opened an Information Centre at Couva.
- The Council is incorporated by Act of Parliament and receives a Government Subvention.

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days

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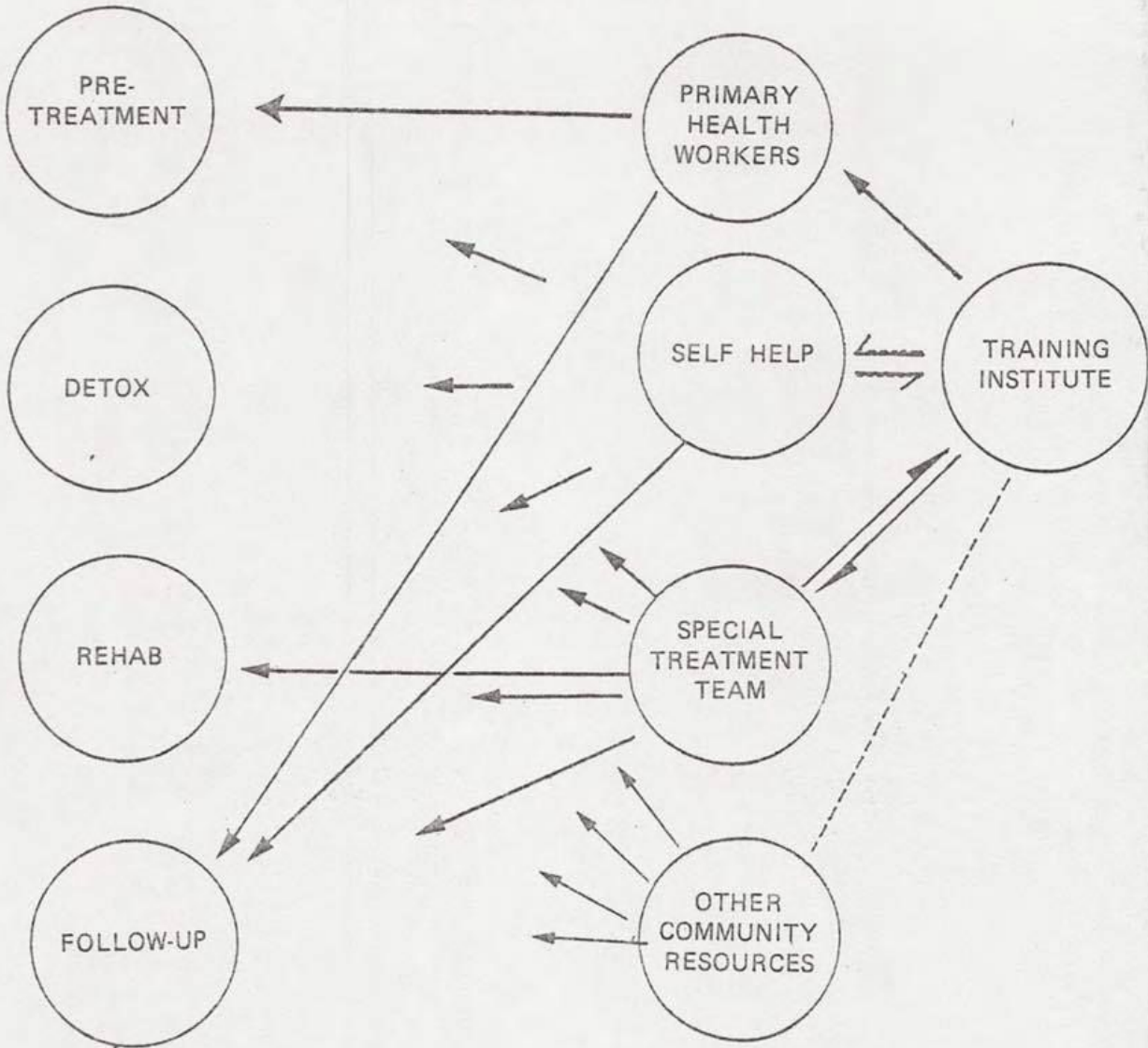
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MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING INSTITUTE

- Roles & Responsibilities

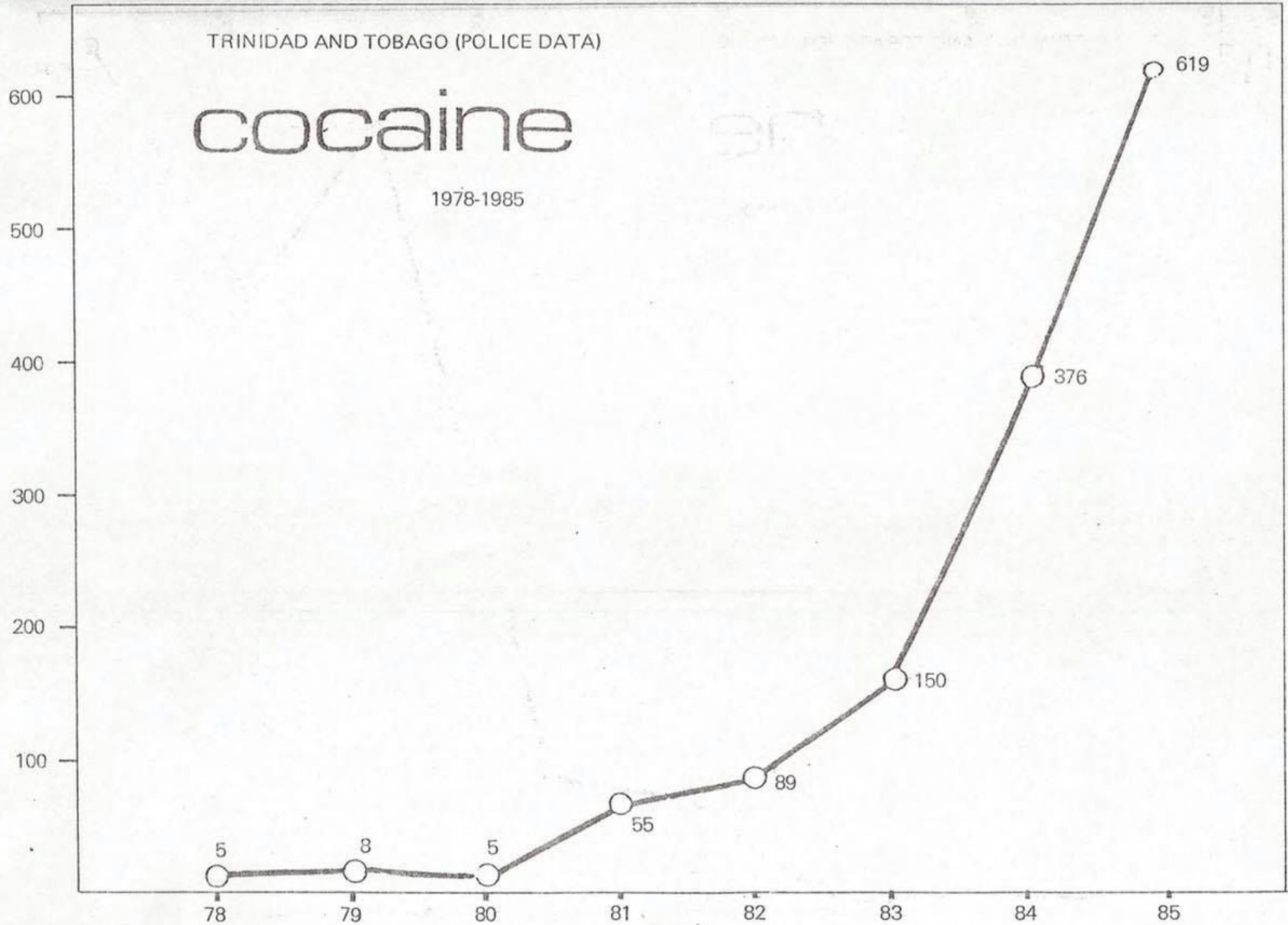


TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (POLICE DATA)

cocaine

1978-1985

persons Charged



ARRE 5000

4000

3000

2000

1000

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (POLICE DATA)

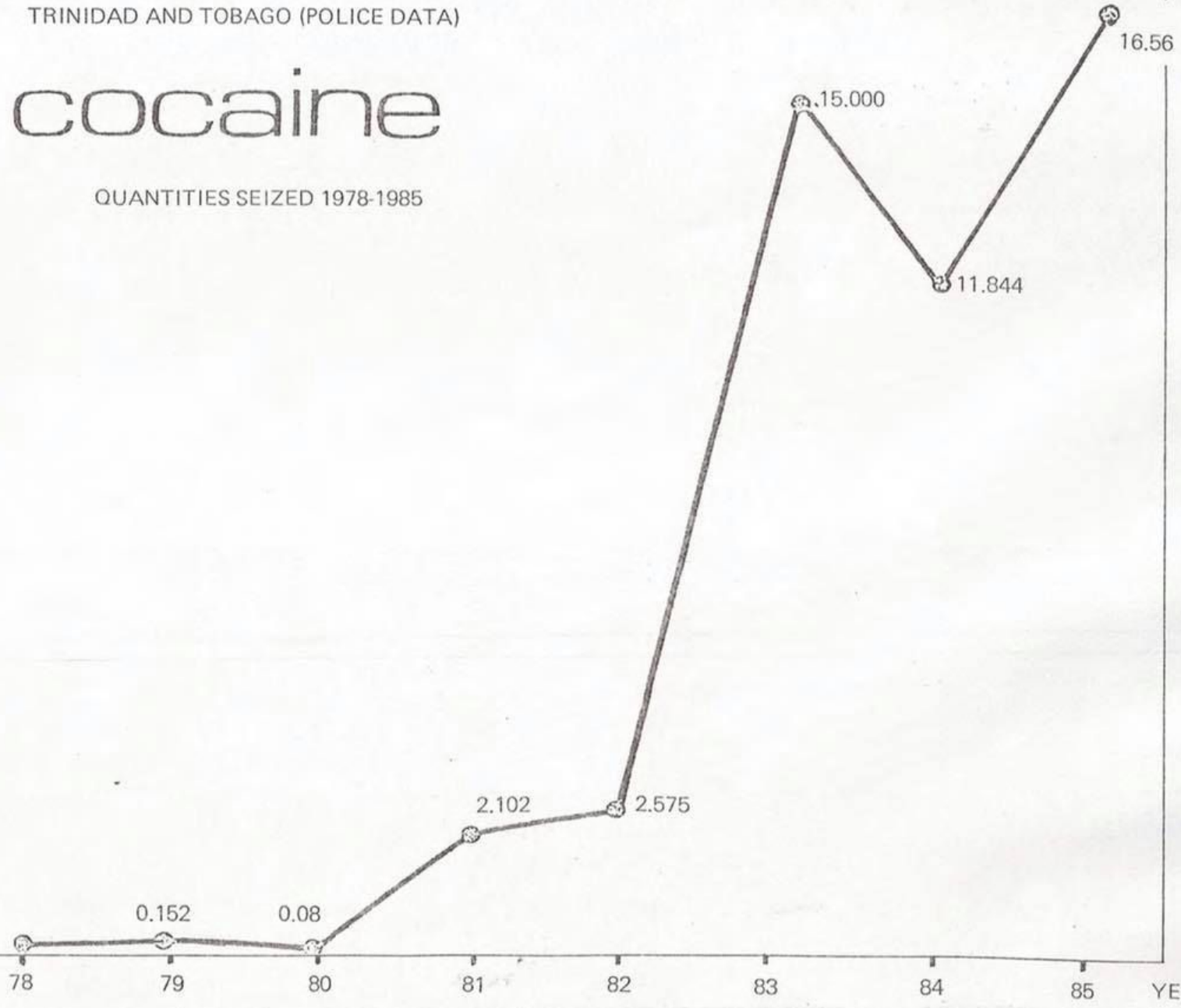
cocaine

QUANTITIES SEIZED 1978-1985

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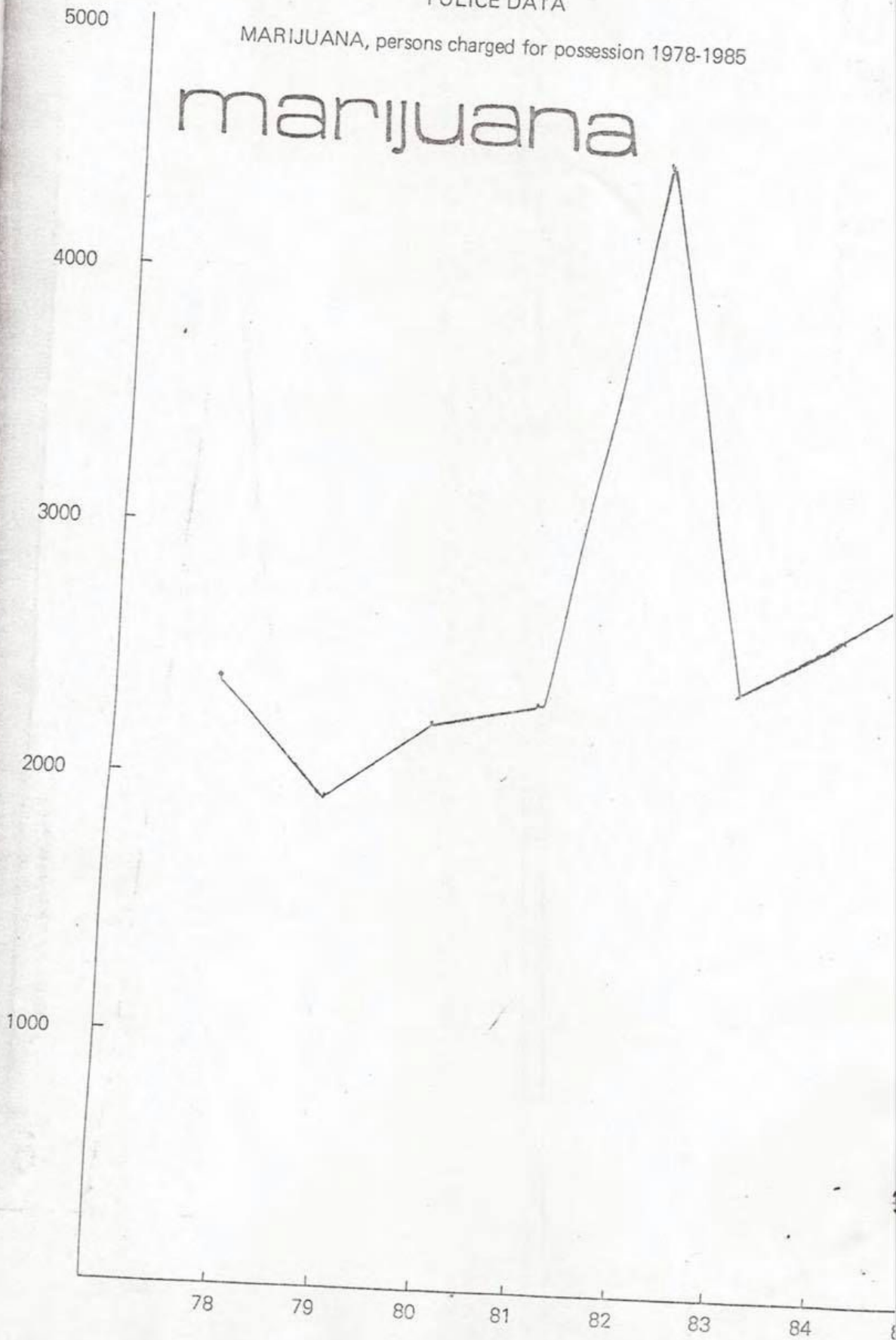
YEAR

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
POLICE DATA

MARIJUANA, persons charged for possession 1978-1985

marijuana

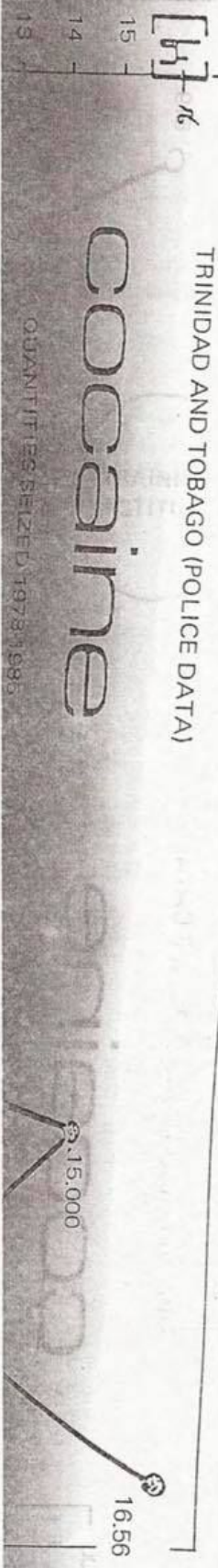
ARRESTS



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (POLICE DATA)

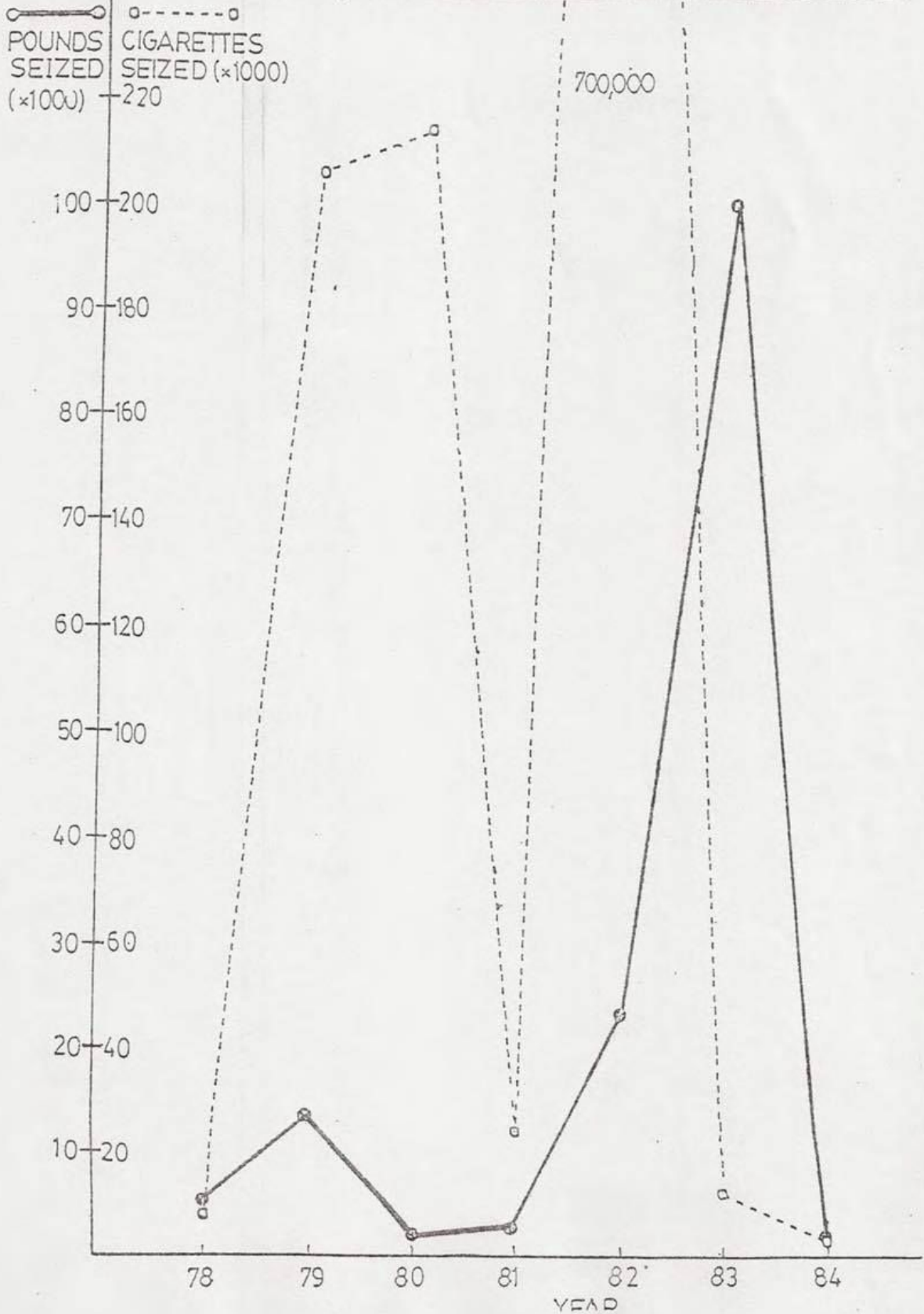
cocaine

QUANTITIES SEIZED 1978-1985



marijuana

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
POLICE DATA



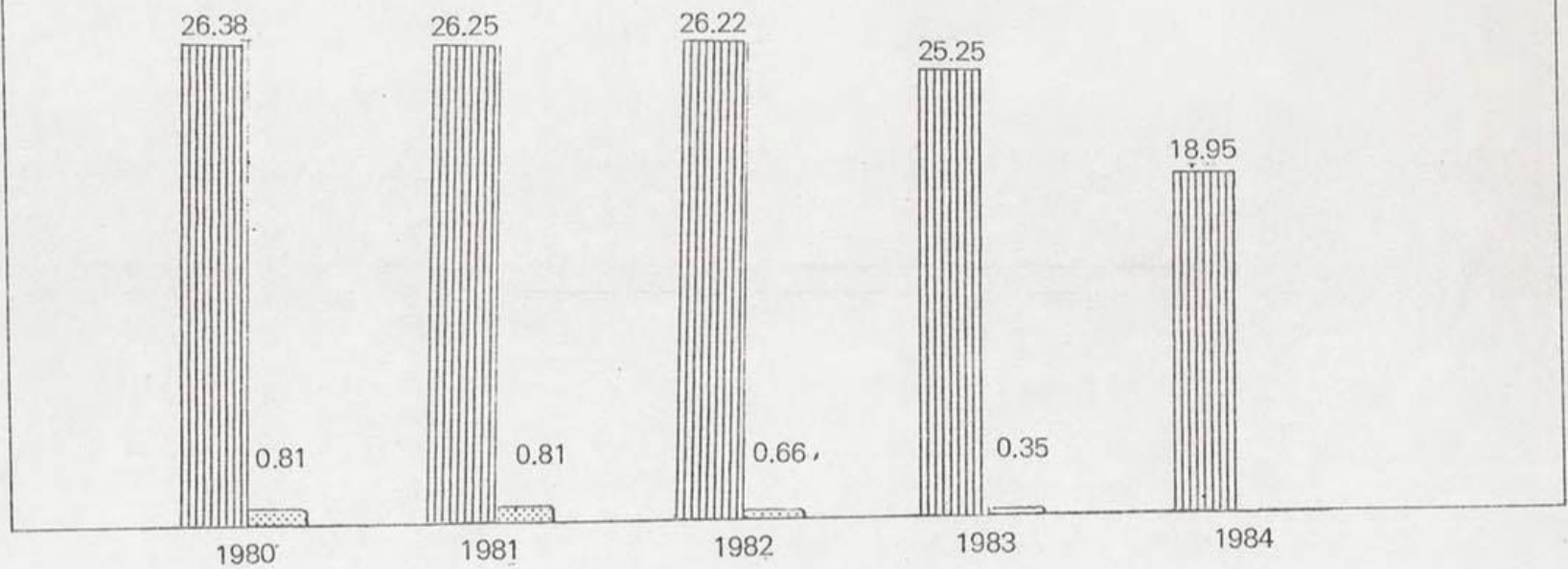
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (Hospital Admissions)

75
|
9

%

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (Hospital Admissions)
ST. ANN'S HOSPITAL—percent of total admissions

ALCOHOL
DRUGS



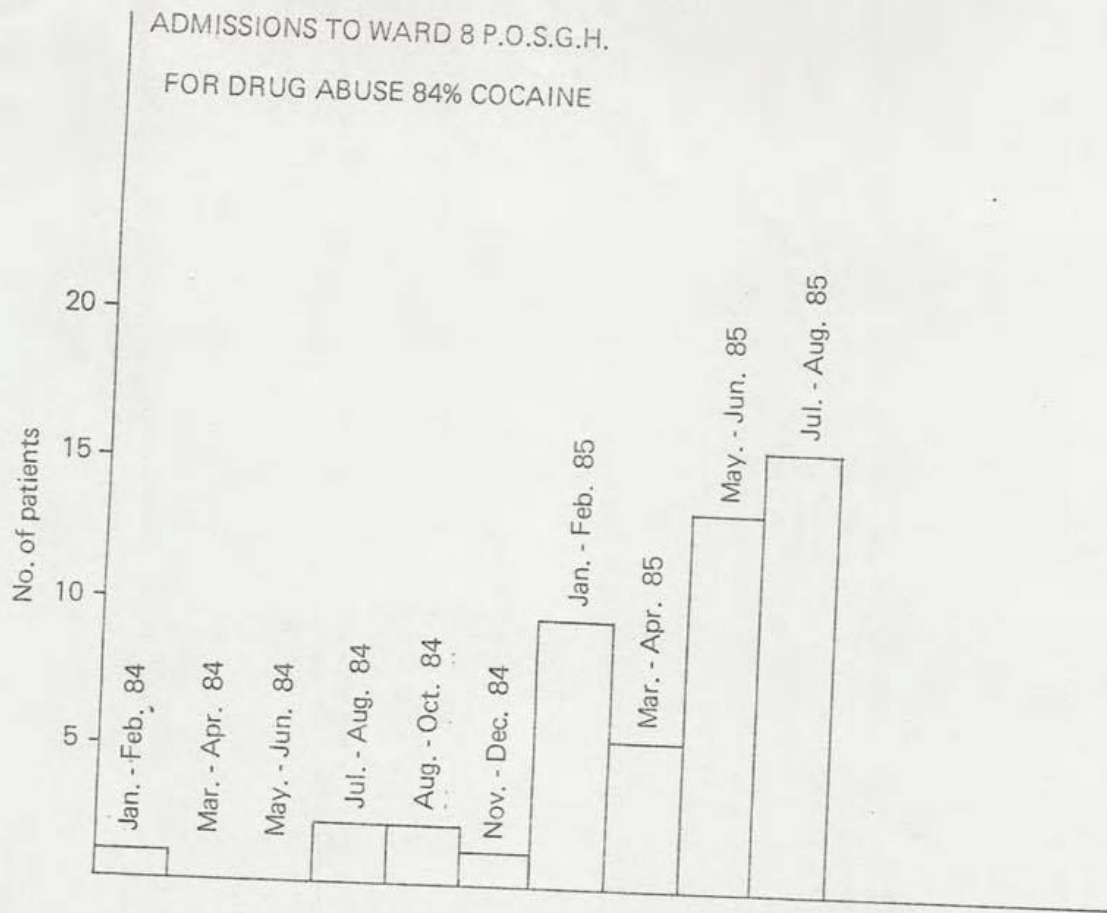


Fig 1: Rate of admission to ward 8 P.O.S.G.H. for drug abuse.

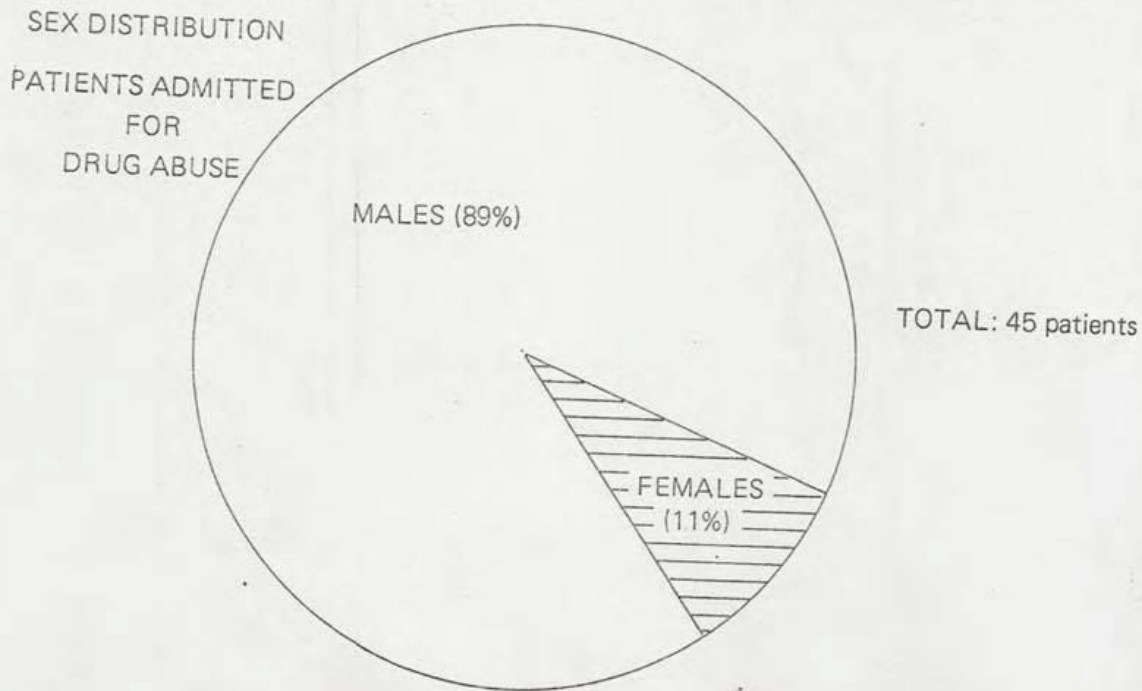


Fig 2: Picture chart showing sex distribution of patients admitted for drug abuse

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INTERNAL FACTOR

4.1 It is safe to say that for abuse of drug use to take place there must be both the availability and supply of the drugs and also the appeal or demand for them. It is necessary to establish the availability of these drugs, the locality of the sources, the identities of the suppliers, whether their possession was illegal then how effective was law enforcement, the identities of the users, the reason for their abuse of these drugs, the trends in the incidence of drug abuse and matters of a similar ilk.

4.2 In the opinion of the Commission a suitable starting point in its Enquiry was the recognition by the Police Service of the problem of illegal use of drugs, in that it had been found appropriate to form within it, a Narcotics Squad. The Commission was informed that this Squad had its origin in the late sixties. Specialised training came in 1972 when two policewomen underwent training in Washington and Chicago with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in the detection and prevention of the use of these substances, and in addition, in methods of instruction to prepare them for lecturing to public bodies on the dangerous consequences of the drug habit.

4.3 At the end of May 1972 these policewomen started their series of lectures to schools, youth groups and other organizations. By 1976 the Police Narcotics Squad comprised 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals and 6 Constables. The Inspector had undergone a course of training at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Washington. In 1978, with the addition of 10 Constables, the establishment of the Narcotics Squad now stood at 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals and 16 Constables.

4.4 Notwithstanding this exposure to overseas training which was very valuable, it would appear from the evidence before the Commission that this benefit was not fully exploited by the Police Administration in that very many recommendations made by the Narcotics Squad went unheeded although these were based upon the advice received by its personnel on the formal courses of instruction previously mentioned, together with the experience of the Squad gained in dealing with the local situation. The Commission was told that many recommendations were made including those for additional personnel, unmarked vehicles for its exclusive use, a base away from Police Headquarters, programmes for use in schools, a special storeroom for its exhibits, an incinerator for use in the destruction of narcotics, but that these were not granted.

4.5 Indeed, the Commission was informed, not only of the ill consequences of rejection of many of the recommendations, but what is even more disturbing, of instances of apparent undue interference by the Commissioner of Police in the operation of the Squad which he eventually disbanded in 1980.

4.6 The Commission was very surprised on hearing that the Commissioner, Mr. Burroughs, had directed that all public lectures on narcotics were to be given by him when it was well known that he had not received any training in this sphere and, to the contrary, that two members of the Narcotics Squad had received formal training in this and had been successfully giving about three such lectures per month. As a consequence, when requests for lectures were received by the Squad, these were referred to the Commissioner, who quite understandably, could not accommodate every one, and consequently found it necessary from time to time to call upon the trained lecturers to talk on the subject.

4.7 A peculiar directive of the Commissioner in the opinion of the Commission was that he had to be informed in advance before any raids which were to be carried out on suspected dealers. Another surprising instruction which destroyed the vital element of surprise on the part of this Squad was that another unit, the Flying Squad, had also to be informed in advance of any raids. In some instances, these raids were futile and members of the Narcotics Squad formed the firm opinion that the occupiers of the premises were being unquestionably forewarned. In one instance, a very prominent drug dealer was even found to have a record of the unlisted telephone number of the Commissioner. Moreover, it was alarming to learn that drug dealers could boast of having policemen transferred and to threaten to have others transferred. There is abundant evidence of a close relationship between the Commissioner and more than one known drug dealer and further mention is made of this later in this report.

4.8 Indeed, with the disbanding of this Narcotics Squad in early 1980, in what was apparently a mischievous administrative decision by the Commissioner, the police attempt to control and curtail the incidence of illegal drug use became far from effective. According to the evidence, this police function the Commissioner now allocated fully to the Flying Squad. Lamentably, from the evidence before the Commission, the Flying Squad was undoubtedly totally undisciplined and equally unfortunately, bereft of proper supervision. In fact, the Commission was informed that the Flying Squad was headed by a certain group termed variously, "The MI5" or "CI5", whose members were a virtual law unto themselves as they were regarded as being special "blue-eyed boys" of the Commissioner and thus not accountable to anyone. This situation was well known throughout the entire Service resulting in a most serious breakdown of discipline. The names of members of this group have been repeatedly mentioned in the evidence before the Commission as persons involved in the drug trade and in the commission of many corrupt acts. It is to be lamented that such a delicate and important sphere of activity fell under the control of such a grouping which engaged in despicable acts all of which have undoubtedly brought the Service into disrepute. The names of this group are now set out hereunder:

ASP Carrington	Inspector Leache
Sergeant T. St. Louis	Sergeant M. Cordner
Corporal Lynch	Corporal Gibbs No. 8111
P.C. Mitchell No. 8403	

This list of corrupt policemen involved in the illegal drug trade is by no means complete and a more extensive listing is detailed later in this report. Even the later listing cannot be comprehensive.

4.9 It must be mentioned here that the Commission was informed that at the Flying Squad office at St. Joseph Station, ASP Carrington kept locked in a safe, a number of items which were planted on persons by personnel of the Flying Squad when there was need for "evidence" of having found them in possession of certain items to support charges laid against them. These items included arms, ammunition, cocaine and marijuana.

✓ 4.10 From the evidence before the Commission, it is clear that several members of the Police Service have become involved in many ways in illegal drug use, and in its trade, and this unfortunate situation has existed for some years now.

4.11 It was repeated time and again in evidence given before the Commission that exhibits of marijuana and cocaine were not weighed at any stage, and in many instances not even officially lodged. This most irresponsible practice readily presented dishonest policemen with an illicit source of drugs. Indeed, there was evidence that from time to time certain policemen stole drug exhibits or portions thereof. It is clear that corrupt members of the Police Service and, the Flying Squad in particular, played a prominent role in this recycling process.

4.12 The Commission heard testimony of personnel of the Flying Squad allegedly finding drugs in circumstances which left no doubt that these articles had been planted by its personnel upon innocent members of the public. One police witness remembers vividly a raid at the home of a pusher called "Banlon" at Oxford Street, Port-of-Spain when Sergeant Cordner allegedly found marijuana and LSD. This witness, together with another policeman, in the presence of Banlon's wife, had just completed a meticulous search of certain items in the Banlon home and had gone into another room when Sergeant Cordner was heard to say loudly, "what is this?" This witness returned to the same room which had just been searched and saw Sergeant Cordner removing an envelope which he claimed to have discovered among pillowcases. Unknown to him, these same pillowcases had been carefully searched and found free of any drugs and refolded by this witness a few moments earlier! Cordner then went on to "find" a strip of 7 LSD tablets in similar circumstances! The Commission was informed that arising out of this, Banlon's wife was charged, convicted and fined \$240.00 or 3 months for possession of the drugs. She later lost her appeal.

4.13 What is even more disturbing is that the Commission learnt that no appropriate investigation, and subsequent disciplinary process, was introduced in any of the instances in which members of the Flying Squad were found tampering with drug exhibits or seizures, or suspected of so doing, despite the fact that these matters were brought to the attention of its senior personnel and at times the Commissioner himself. It appears that a mere transfer, at times a mere transfer within the C.I.D., was the only action noted to have been taken against such policemen.

4.14 Having regard to the deplorable manner in which drug exhibits and seizures were handled, and in particular by members of the Flying Squad which operated under the direct and personal control of the Commissioner, the Commission formed the firm view that this most senior officer failed in his responsibility to ensure the safe custody of reliable exhibits. The question which arises in the mind of the Commission is whether or not disciplinary action was not taken against these "untouchable" men in matters so evidently grave because they were privy to secrets which the Commissioner would prefer not to have exposed.

4.15 Mr. Burroughs, Commissioner of Police, is linked intimately with Naim Naya Ali, Dole Chadee, Rammer, Rudolph Mills and Adella Moses, all of whom are stated to be very extensively involved in drug trafficking. He is also so closely linked with the operator of a gambling club at Curepe, one Hosein Alladin alias Betalal, that Alladin is referred to, even in certain police circles, as "a Deputy Commissioner of Police". One witness gave in testimony that he knew that one Kenneth Trudge of East Dry River used to push marijuana for Mr. Burroughs some time ago, but that Trudge was now hooked on cocaine.

4.16 The Commission notes with relief that with the reformation of a Narcotics Squad in May 1984, a new effort is being made to come to grips with the situation as this unit is free to execute raids without interference. In the present absence of Mr. Burroughs, the Commission has noted an increase in activity directed against the major dealers, notably Naim Naya Ali, Teddy "Mice" Khan, Chaitram Gayah and Dole Chadee. Nonetheless, the situation is an extremely grave one, as police involvement in the illegal trade has become extensive and the use of illicit drugs very widespread.

4.17 A particularly disturbing feature which recurs with unfortunate frequency throughout the evidence in respect of members of the Police Service is their use of drugs, their pushing of drugs, their engagement in the growing and reaping of marijuana, recycling of confiscated drugs for the supply of drug dealers, the operation of protection rackets whereby major drug dealers are assisted in or are allowed to pursue their illegal trade without let or hindrance. A side issue in this instance, but a very important one nonetheless, is evidence of engagement by policemen in other criminal acts, including smuggling, counterfeiting and probably murder.

4.18 The Commission heard testimony to the effect that Assistant Superintendent R. Pierre, who has been described as a very close friend of Mr. Burroughs and major drug dealer Chaitram Gayah, has not only been engaged in counselling Gayah and others in the planning and commission of crime, but has actually chosen to assist them in transporting and keeping equipment imported for making counterfeit U.S. currency. Further, it is stated that Pierre joined with Gayah in having one witness sell counterfeit U.S. currency notes and physically assaulted a person believed to be owing money to Gayah.

4.19 In some instances certain policemen were reported to be in control of drug trafficking in certain areas which were termed "blocks", in others they were reported to be in the pay of known drug dealers, in yet others they were said to be improperly removing or withholding portions of seized quantities of drugs, either for their own use or for sale to users and in certain cases to supply major drug dealers. The evidence coming before the Commission by no means gives the complete picture but the former "CI5/MI5" are prominent here.

4.20 From the evidence before the Commission there is reason to believe that in each Division and Branch of the Service there are personnel who are involved. Many of these corrupt policemen so involved are known to be in particular in the Eastern, Port-of-Spain, Central, Southern and South-Western Divisions of the Service. It must be emphasised that there is good reason to believe that many others are involved but time did not permit the enquiries requisite for their disclosure.

4.21 The names of policemen, other than those already outlined at paragraph 4.8 named in evidence as being engaged in this illegal drug activity are as follows:

Eastern Division

Inspector Steele	7252 Cpl. Johnson
Cpl. Singh	P.C. Ross
P.C. Liverpool	P.C. Pritchard
10275 P.C. Persad	P.C. Bharat
P.C. Williams	P.C. Borrel

South-Western Division

6408 P.C. Andrews	7166 Cpl. Phillip
7731 P.C. Lee	9152 P.C. Ramdhanie
P.C. Schneider	

C.I.D.

Inspector Reyes	Cpl. Bridgemohan
Sgt. Lambert	Cpl. Granger
Cpl. Lance Lashley	P.C. Victor
Cpl. Byer Weekes	P.C. Wayne Lewis

Tobago

Inspector Denoon	Cpl. Regis
Byron Smith (rank not known)	

Port-of-Spain Division

P.C. Patterdeen	P.C. Manwaring
P.C. Balcombe	P.C. Matthews
P.C. Benjamin (driver of A.C.P. Mohammed)	

Southern Division

A.S.P. R. Pierre	Cpl. Ganga
Sgt. Snaggs	Sgt. Alexander alias Concrete
2288 S.R.P. Gokool (Moruga)	W/Cpl. Carol Watson
Sgt. McNeil	Keith Farrell
Cpl. Duncan	

Marine Branch

P.C. Gilbert	P.C. Charles
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Northern Division

P.C. Ali of Persad Lane	9152 P.C. Johnson
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Division not known

P.C. Washington	P.C. Mechier
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Due to the extremely delicate nature of this enquiry no attempt has been made so far to obtain the relevant regimental numbers.

4.22 Evidence before the Commission disclosed that Ossie Walker, a senior Customs Officer, who allegedly is the owner of several boutiques including the Preview, Better Half and Woman's Dream, was engaged in drug trafficking. It was also said that Polly Mohammed, operator of this Preview Boutique in Barataria, has been serving as his courier between Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. and that she was of similar service to one Marshall of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. It is understood that Mohammed was arrested in New York in early 1985 in possession of a considerable quantity of cocaine.

4.23 It was learnt too that Munro, owner of several boutiques was importing cocaine via Tobago and that he used couriers who, knowingly or not, took delivery of the illicit drug from female guests at hotels or guest houses in the sister isle and brought same to him in Trinidad. It was stated that he had pushers working for him, one of whom was said to be Ramdath Ramcharan of Pasea. Munro is also stated to import cocaine from Brazil.

4.24 It became clear to the Commission that users of illegal drugs were to be found throughout the society amongst both wage earning and non-wage earning individuals. In the evidence before the Commission, two Ministers are stated by more than one witness to be known users of cocaine, and moreover, one of these Ministers is said to be involved in the sale of the drug. Another Minister was also named as a user, and two others were stated to be behind certain dealers but the evidence here was not convincing. Prominent members of society seen by witnesses to be users of cocaine include four very senior bank executives. A former beauty queen was also named as a user of cocaine.

4.25 The Commission has been told repeatedly of the affluent life-style of major drug dealers, many of whom apparently have no other visible means of livelihood, or who sought to mask their illegal activity behind a *bona fide* business. The Commission was informed of several members of the Police Service who apparently enjoy a life-style far beyond that to be reasonably expected of persons in such employment, of Prison Officers who sell drugs to prisoners, of members of the public who appear to have used the proceeds of the drug trade to launch into businesses of one sort or another, of the high incidence of use of drugs at places of entertainment, of the use of illegal drugs by students at schools, secondary ones in particular, of teachers who are users of illegal drugs, and of the very great number of individuals throughout the society who are known to be involved in the trade by peddling it in small amounts, by being engaged in its large-scale distribution and sale, or by its illicit importation.

4.26 There is an abundance of evidence that the illegal trade in drugs has grown to enormous proportions, that its use has become extremely widespread in all parts of the country, and with persons of all ages.

4.27 The persons who came to the attention of the Commission, not necessarily in order of significance, as being most significantly involved directly in the movement of illicit drugs and/or in one facet or another of this trade are:

Joey Ramlochan, El Socorro
Extention

Imports from Venezuela and exports to New York, using women to take small amounts (about 2 kilos) strapped to their bodies/speaks Spanish fluently/ believed to have done 6-year term in Venezuelan jail for drug dealing.

Olivia Hurtado Martinez, Four
Roads

Came to Trinidad and Tobago as a Colombian prostitute and obtained resident status after marriage to a Trinidad and Tobago national who was a Venezuelan by birth/active distributor for many Colombians-Venezuelans for whom she sells on a commission basis.

"Burn Hand" of Point Fortin ...

Believed to have police relative and so inside knowledge on police activity and supply of drugs seized by police/exporter to U.S.

Adella Moses of Woodbrook and
Independence Square

Agent for Venezuelan small boats/financier for dealers/money changer/known contact for major drug dealers.

"Hammer" of Tunapuna ...

Owens club in El Dorado district/exporter of illicit drugs to New York/financier for dealers.

Nankissoon Boodram alias "Dole
Chadee" of Piparo

Importer/distributor with a number of Police contacts including C.O.P. and ASP Pierre/known to have arms cache and to be engaged in violent crime/four (4) brothers engaged with him in drug dealing/known to use cocaine.

Naim Naya Ali, Evelyn Trace,
El Socorro, San Juan.

Importer/distributor with a number of Police contacts including C.O.P./said to be cocaine addict/ operates a fruit retail outlet.

Chaitram Gayah of Chaguanas, Leotaud & Ciperro Streets in San Fernando.	Importer/distributor of cocaine and counterfeit U.S. currency/number of Police contacts including ASP Pierre/allegedly involved in murder of "Creamy"—now charged/operates a motor vehicle parts and accessories shop and deals in used motor vehicles.
Teddy Khan alias Teddy Mice Khan of San Juan.	Importer/distributor with a number of Police contacts.
William Munro, Santa Cruz. ...	Importer/distributor of cocaine with a number of Police contacts/known to be friend of several Government Ministers.
Mantoor Ramdhanny, Icacos ...	Operates fast boats conveying cocaine and mari- juana from Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago.
Bridgemohan Ramdial alias Ramon of Icacos	Operates fast boats conveying cocaine and mari- juana from Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago.
Irwin Garraway, Cap-de-Ville ...	Distributor of cocaine supplied by Chaitram Gayah.
Hosein Alladin alias Betalal alias Dragon of Curepe	Distributor/very intimate with C.O.P.—believed to be relative of wife of C.O.P./operates club known for its gambling.
Vishundath Sharma, Palmyra ...	Distributor of cocaine supplied by Chaitram Gayah.
Ali of Munroe Road, Cunupia ...	Distributor/former taxi driver who purchases his stock of cocaine from Venezuelan visitors.
Narine of Curepe (near Kay Donna)	Distributor/official in Taxi-Drivers' Association at Independence Square/not known to have taken a passenger for the past year/exporter/supplies to pushers on consignment/supplied by Venezuelan visitors.
Wallace Williams alias "Bulls" of Belmont	Distributor/in control of Belmont Valley Road "block".
Quammie of DEWD ...	Distributor
"Babes" of Vallot Street, Boissiere	Distributor
"Dr. Rat" (alias) East Dry River ...	Distributor
Teddy "Mice" Vieira, Piccadilly Street	Distributor
Ramdath Ramcharan, Dinah Street, Pasea	Distributor
Gabriel Velasquez, Halifax Lane, Belmont	Distributor
Carl Eversley ...	Distributor—internationally
"Fish" of St. James ...	Distributor
"Barbie" of Laventille ...	Distributor
Mackie Padmore, San Juan ...	Distributor
Rudolph Mills (businessman) Coffee Street	Distributor
Barkay of Aranguez ...	Distributor
Omar ...	Lives above Dean's Restaurant, near to Evelyn Trace. Storekeeper for Naim.

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Dass of El Socorro Road	Distributor for Teddy Mice/lives with Teddy's aunt.
Joseph Hadeed of La Horquette ...	...	Owns boat at Carenage/cocaine/marijuana distributor.
Komtan of Curepe ...	...	Cocaine dealer.
"Tomatoes" grocery owner ...	...	Grocery owner at Vessigny/harbours Colombian prostitutes/dealing in unlicensed firearms/distributor for Naim.

4.28 From the evidence before the Commission it was manifest that these are the persons mainly responsible for the illegal importation and distribution of illicit drugs, both marijuana and cocaine. There is not a firm definition of the exact role of many of these persons in this activity. Some distribute the imported drugs to other dealers engaged solely with re-distribution and retailing, yet the former may also be big purchasers of locally grown marijuana. Significantly, it was established that many dealers had several sources of supply and supplied each other as the need arose. Surprisingly, a few of these major dealers were stated to be also engaged in retailing. In some instances dealers specialised in one drug, for example, cocaine. It was learnt that marijuana had a rather short shelf life while cocaine kept well in storage. This feature may be an influential factor in trade preference but another one is the fact that cocaine is not bulky and so much more easily concealed. This latter feature presents great difficulty for Customs and Police officials.

4.29 From the evidence before the Commission, it would appear that marijuana is cultivated at several places scattered throughout Trinidad and Tobago. In the general eastern district, for example, Mayaro, Guayaguayare, Rio Claro, Biche, Matura and Toco were named as areas in which there are very many plantations. In some cases these plantations are said to be under the control of Inspector Steele of the Eastern Division. In addition, it is reported that in the south there are extensive plantations in the Moruga district from whence the marijuana, when harvested, is conveyed by boat to the general Port-of-Spain area or up the Caroni River to other convenient points. The district of Montevideo on the north coast was described as a drug stronghold. It is also well established in the Tamana district. Many small plantations of this plant are in the Caroni district. Within greater Port-of-Spain itself marijuana is to be found cultivated in isolated districts, and in particular in the Fondes Amandes Valley where one witness claims to know of seven (7) plantations.

4.30 The names of a number of smaller dealers and peddlers throughout the country have been given to the Commission and these are recorded hereunder:

- Unidentified young Syrian—owner of Queensway Store in Port-of-Spain—purchases 1 kilo per month from Dole Chadee.
- Michael Lewis alias "Gulstan" of Lucknow Street, St. James
- "Mad Dog" (alias) of Point Fortin
- "Monkey" (alias) of Spring Village, Curepe
- Mervyn Frank of Roy Joseph Scheme, San Fernando
- Isse Boodoo, Sangre Grande
- Mile Lum Yue of Sangre Grande
- Sholto (alias) "Fats" of Cocorite Road, Arima
- "Brains" (alias) of Biche
- Kassim Ali of River Street, Sangre Grande
- Barboy, Corner Taharie and Cross Trace, Sangre Grande
- Unidentified woman of roundabout opposite Sangre Grande Police Station
- Ray Goddard, Corner Mary Street and Cunapo Southern Main Road
- Baldeosingh of South Trinidad
- William Myers of (Mars) Begg Trace, Toco
- Kaleyan of Montevideo, Toco
- Benjamin—parlour owner—Couva—lives at Carli Bay
- "Brokes"—rasta in San Fernando—pusher for Dole Chadee
- Frank—rasta in Mon Repos

Orville—rasta from Tobago—supplied by Dole Chadee—takes to Barbados
 Balraj Rampersad—San Fernando
 Ramesar—San Fernando
 Leslie Ross—San Fernando
 Ramootarsingh—in league with Naim Naya
 Dennis Kirpalani—Valsayn
 Papito of La Cour Harp
 Alvin and Clarence Williams of Santa Cruz (brothers of Bacchanal)
 Karim—runs Recreation Club in El Socorro—cocaine addict—alias "Clint"
 Janju family at Iacos—transporters *ex* Venezuela, Pedernales
 Harry Boodoo—Cumana—cocaine user
 Colin Singh—Cumana—cocaine user
 Lloyd Sampson—supplier of cocaine

4.31 On many occasions the Commission heard evidence about the very close relationship between certain dealers and a few magistrates and also allegations of bribery. In fact, it was stated that two magistrates used illegal drugs—cocaine in the case of Senior Magistrate Seukeran, and marijuana in the case of Acting Senior Magistrate Jagessar. Many witnesses testified about a very close relationship between Chaitram Gayah, major drug dealer of San Fernando and Seukeran.

4.32 One witness said that Gayah stated in the presence of other drug dealers, Dole Chadee and Rammer, that he had given Seukeran some cocaine for smoking. Another witness stated that he was present at Gayah's business place when Seukeran telephoned alerting Gayah about an impending police search. As a consequence of this tip-off, Gayah successfully arranged for counterfeit US fifty-dollar notes and hundred-dollar travellers cheques to be removed from his premises by a friend for safe keeping. Another witness had a recording of Seukeran's sexual exploits in places of doubtful repute. The Commission is convinced that Seukeran has been assisting Gayah and his friends in their encounters with the law.

4.33 The Commission also learnt that Gayah was on close terms with Senior Magistrate Kelvin Ali. It was informed that Ali accepted from one Sahadath Ali, a bribe of \$30,000 TT to quash a charge against the latter with respect to counterfeit currency. A witness actually saw Sahadath Ali withdraw for this purpose the sum of money as mentioned from a bank on Harris Promenade, San Fernando. Another witness was told by Dole Chadee with whom he is on intimate terms, that one Bhagdad, father of Rammer, would bribe Magistrate Beecham Maharaj with \$200,000 in a case which Rammer had before him at the Princes Town Court. Chadee was also stated to be on very good terms with Magistrate Roach whose home at Santa Cruz he was known to visit at night time. It was stated that on one occasion Roach was heard to advise Chadee to tamper with cocaine exhibits in a certain way and that he (Roach) would dismiss the case.

4.34
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Cocaine
Arrests

1981
55

1982
89

1983
150

1984
378

1985
619

4.34 The Commission considers it appropriate to place on record here statistical data relevant to seizures/arrests by the Police of illegal drugs during the period 1981/1985.

Cocaine Arrests	Marijuana Arrests	Hashish Arrests	Morphine	L.S.D.	Amount of Cocaine Seized	Amount of Hashish Seized	Amount of Marijuana Seized
1981 55 ...	2,356	3	—	—	2,102 gms	198.62 gms	5,294,650 (trees) 2,474 lb. (cured) 25,365 (cigarettes)
1982 89 ...	4,465	5	—	—	2,575 gms	198.62 gms	7,210,476 (trees) 23,575 lb. (cured) 700,369 (cigarettes)
1983 100 ...	2,308	—	25 (tabs)	—	15,000 gms	—	150,000 (trees) 100,000 lb. (cured) 12,000 (cigarettes)
1984 376 ...	2,723	3	48 (amps)	2,195 (tabs)	11,844 gms	3 gms	7,901,232 (trees) 5,725 lb. (cured) 2,999 (cigarettes)
1985 819 ...	2,885	3	—	—	16 k 560 gms	56 gms	1,109,134 (trees) -2,512 lb. (cured) 5,083 (cigarettes) 95,302 (seedlings)

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EXTERNAL FACTOR

5.1 There is an abundance of evidence that the source of a lot of marijuana, and almost all the cocaine, coming into this country is Colombia. It is on record that very much of this illegal importation is not direct from Colombia but via Venezuela where it is alleged certain officials are involved in the illicit trade. The Commission was informed that within recent months hashish was to be found but there is as yet no evidence as to its source.

5.2 From the evidence before the Commission, it is clear that entry of this illegal cargo into Trinidad by sea is not confined to Port-of-Spain and the north-western peninsula, where incidentally, it was known to have taken place not only on the coast of the main island but also on the near offshore islands which are convenient points of trans-shipment into the country.

5.3 The evidence of many witnesses discloses that this activity is quite common in the south-western peninsula, not merely on the Iacos/Cedros coastline, but also on the south coast in the Erin district in particular. It was given in evidence by more than one witness that two Cedros residents, Mantoor and Ramon, operated high speed open boats which frequently brought marijuana and cocaine from Venezuela to various points in the general Cedros district. On the west coast, especially in the Waterloo district, and also up the Caroni River and its various tributaries, it is understood that shipments are transported up the latter and landed at the southern part of the El Socorro district.

5.4 In addition, the north coast with its many secluded bays, for instance, Paria, Blanchisseuse, La Fillette and Maracas, is said to provide places of entry for supply of the illicit cargo. Tobago too, with its irregular coastline and many secluded coves within easy reach of a road presents many convenient locations for clandestine landings. Transfer of illicit goods from Tobago to Trinidad is unlikely to present any problem as there is no restriction on the movement of persons or cargo between the two islands.

5.5 It would be incorrect to form the impression that entry of illicit drugs by sea was only effected through the use of small cargo such as the fishing vessels common to the region. One witness informed the Commission of having witnessed at the Port-of-Spain docks the removal of cellophane bags from crates containing shoes which had been imported by William Munro reportedly a cocaine dealer, from Brazil. This witness had practical knowledge and experience of this importer's trading in cocaine and formed the opinion that he had been receiving some of his illicit drug supplies through this means.

5.6 It was also brought to the attention of the Commission that on one occasion the ribs of a cargo container on the Port-of-Spain docks were accidentally ruptured and several blocks of compressed marijuana were discovered to be concealed therein. It was stated that Naim Naya, under the guise of his fruit import business, has been transporting drugs, both marijuana and cocaine, concealed in sections of containers used in this trade. There is also evidence before the Commission that a few port workers from the Port-of-Spain docks often supplied a distributor, one Michael Lewis, in the St. James district. The Commission is also aware that some years ago bales of compressed marijuana were found in the harbour after the arrival of a ship from Jamaica.

5.7 Moreover, there is much evidence that both marijuana and cocaine are brought into the country through Piarco International Airport and in one or two instances, at least, by drops from aircraft in the Iacos/Cedros district. Very disturbing evidence given before the Commission is that Dole Chadee, one of the most prominent drug importers, has given consideration to having a light plane bring cargoes of cocaine (200 kilos at a time) from Cesar Mendoza, who is described as a major drug supplier in Colombia on to an improvised landing on Saunders Trace, a lightly used public road in south Trinidad. There is no evidence that this plan has been put into effect but nonetheless, it is a matter of grave concern. It may be that news of his dishonesty in dealing with suppliers has reached the other party in the proposed airlift causing a cancellation of plans.

5.8 In the case of entry to Piarco International Airport, there is evidence that this takes place in collusion with corrupt Customs officials. The officials have not been identified but for one who is stated to be a Mr. Thompson residing at Belmont. Moreover, as mentioned elsewhere in this report, one Karan, an airport worker and taxi-driver, has been named as a person who plays a very active part in the clearing of these illicit cargoes through Customs and in providing temporary storage for them in Piarco Village. Mention is also made elsewhere in this report of a senior Customs official who is the owner of a few boutiques and who is said to deal in cocaine. It is reasonable to assume that he would use his influence to facilitate entry of his illegal supplies.

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5.9 The evidence before the Commission also indicates that Chaitram Gayah, a prominent drug dealer of San Fernando, obtains some of his supplies of cocaine through a B.W.I.A. pilot (not identified, described only as tall, red-skinned) who brings it to Piarco where it is taken from the plane by the airport worker called Karan as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

5.10 In the case of the air drop, while there is no doubt that this has taken place on probably more than one occasion, there is no evidence that this has been a frequent practice. The Commissioners noted with interest, however, evidence to the effect that persons who were involved in the illicit production of cocaine in the nearby Orinoco district of Venezuela called Gualamalaca, owned light planes. The name of one Mendez, allegedly a Californian (US) politician, was mentioned as the owner of planes which land at the reserve.

5.11 Some most interesting evidence was to the effect that in Gualamalaca, an Indian reserve including several islands in the Escrecana Delta, and inhabited by primitive tribes, the production of cocaine is a well-established industry. The Commission was informed that in this reserve fugitives from many countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, have taken refuge and are engaged in the refining of cocaine which they supply to the international market through a well-organised courier system. In many instances transfer of the drug is achieved to many Caribbean countries by means of boats, some of which have been stolen, bearing false names and registration marks. The Commission was also told that cocaine laboratories were also to be found at other locations in Venezuela, namely Sucre, Maturin and Carupano.

5.12 An interesting disclosure from another witness was that certain Trinidad and Tobago nationals have marijuana plantations in the Pedernales district of Venezuela from where the harvested marijuana is brought to Trinidad for sale.

5.13 The Commission received no evidence of cocaine being produced in Trinidad and Tobago. However, there was abundant evidence to the effect that it was received from Venezuela, from Colombia via Venezuela, direct from Colombia and from points in the U.S., namely Miami and New York. It was stated that on many occasions this drug has been brought into this country by boats conveying cement here from Colombia. Several small Venezuelan craft calling here are stated to be engaged in the drug traffic. Their names include the following:

Adventure	Santa Maria	Joe Louis
Yamaha	Santa Alia	Peggy Mar
La Eriticia	Triladi II	Mora S
Mando	Marias	El Pelegrimo
Niva	Euzelis	La Criticia
Rosa	Trilax	Tricadi
Bonimar	Kiko	Cambra
Palagal	Puada	Robintur
Jann Saladar	Telita	Concord

It is stated that Adella Moses, who is Spanish speaking and local agent for almost all these small craft, provides a money changing service and is the "financial controller" in the illegal importation of drugs by these users and operators of their boats.

5.14 One witness of wide experience in the field stated that 7 to 9 small boats came to Port-of-Spain weekly from Venezuela, each with some 5 to 12 kilos of cocaine which fetched about \$16,000 US per kilo. It was his opinion that about 90 per cent of the cocaine brought into this country arrived in this manner.

5.15 He explained that in earlier days this illicit drug came in bags hidden in cornmeal, most of which was cleared by one Burlong, but that at present the cocaine was transferred from the small Venezuelan craft to Trinidad and Tobago boats with which they made rendezvous by pre-arrangement. To accomplish this, prior to departure for home, the Venezuelans arrange the time and place of meeting for the succeeding trip. This witness informed the Commission that the 5 persons from Tunapuna who lost their lives last year in the sinking of an open boat near the Five Islands had actually been engaged in this illegal traffic. He stated that they used to export the cocaine to New York. He explained that on a previous occasion, having taken delivery of the cocaine, they paid with counterfeit US dollars and now they had been set upon and their boat damaged by shots, one of which struck their engine causing it to explode. He stated that these persons from Tunapuna had been financed by one "Hammer" of Tunapuna.

* 5.16 The mention of export from Trinidad and Tobago of illegal drugs is not restricted to the incident in the previous paragraph. The Commission was told that within recent times several persons were buying cocaine on the local market and exporting it to New York. One witness stated that one of the main exporters, Joey Ramlogan of El Socorro Extension, engaged five (5) women for this, with each woman taking 2 kilos strapped to her body. The Commission was also told that one Narine, a taxi driver of Curepe, close to the Kay Donna Cinema, was also engaged in the export of cocaine.

5.17 Another witness told the Commission that one Orville, a rasta from Tobago, used to purchase cocaine from Chaitram Gayah to take to Barbados.

5.18 It is also understood that during the course of the past year, a few citizens of Trinidad and Tobago have, on arrival in New York, been arrested for being in possession of cocaine. This supports the evidence from witnesses that narcotics are being exported to the United States from Trinidad and Tobago.

5.19 In dealing with what is described as the External Factor, it may be well to mention here the relevant seizures by the Customs Authorities in the course of their inspection of incoming items:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No. of Seizures</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Value \$</i>
1983	... Cocaine ...	... 1	2 lb. 4 oz.	1,000,000.00
	... Marijuana ...	... 21	5,478 lb. 4 oz.	23,842,000.00
1984	... Cocaine ...	... 3	2 lb.	400,625.00
	... Marijuana ...	... 7	61 lb. 9½ oz.	246,250.00
1985	... Cocaine —	—	—
	... Marijuana ...	... 17	340 lb. 4 oz.	149,670.00
		49	5,884 lb. 5½ oz.	25,638,545.00

GENERAL POLICE INVOLVEMENT

6.1 A significant feature of the total evidence given to the Commission was the frequent mention of direct police involvement in drug trafficking, and what is more, the actual use of illicit drugs by policemen. Mention is also made of other forms of moral impropriety in the conduct of policemen, including officers at the highest level.

6.2 The Commission wishes to make special mention of its interview with a visiting World Health Organization expert who, in the course of a very brief visit to this country told the Commission thus:

"There are a lot of questions as you know about the Police. I met a group of addicts yesterday, cocaine addicts, and personally all of them said, well, the Police statistics are no good. The Police would take the drugs from us, then they would drive the next block over and they will sell the cocaine . . . I am not sure whether what the addicts were telling was the truth but there were, there must have been fifteen (15) addicts in the group."

The Commission regarded this comment as of special significance as this official, a complete stranger to the country, was able to make this contribution without even being questioned in this connection.

6.3 The Commission is in no doubt that very many members of the Police Service are close associates of drug dealers and drug pushers and there is abundant evidence that several policemen and also one policewoman are themselves directly engaged in the illicit drug trade or assisting others in it. Evidence was given that some policemen passed valuable information to dealers and pushers whilst others provided protection.

6.4 In the course of this Enquiry, the Commission became aware of some policemen who were deeply and directly involved in the commission of other serious crime. ASP Pierre is a particularly bad example of this as it was heard in evidence that he is engaged in the counterfeiting of US currency and travellers cheques, and the sale thereof. It was also given in evidence that Pierre had on more than one occasion caused false reports to be made at Police Stations in attempt to favour his colleagues in crime. One witness also described his assault on someone.

6.5 ASP Pierre was supposed to be so close an associate of Dole Chadee that it was stated by more than one witness that he had been given a car by Chadee. Indeed, one witness stated that he had been told this by Indar Chadee, cousin and very close associate of Dole Chadee.

6.6 Mention of Commissioner Burrough's close association with prominent drug dealers, Betalal, Chadee, Naim Naya and Rammer, is literally littered throughout the evidence.

6.7 The Commission heard with no little dismay that this officer had authorised the possession of firearms by persons who were said to have criminal records. Having regard to the seriousness with which the issue of permits authorising the holding of firearms must be treated, the Commission wishes to reproduce here some evidence which indicates strange conduct on the part of the Commissioner with respect to Betalal and his brother, Shah.

Witness: ". . . because when I arrested his brother and I seized the brother's firearm, he came to the Station and he asked me, what is the position with his brother. So I told him, 'as far as I am concerned, you can talk on the question of bail because your brother is arrested. So he wanted to know about the brother's firearm. 'I am seizing your brother's firearm, because he was held in a group with cocaine and marijuana. He had his pistol on him with ten rounds of ammunition and I seized it'."

Commission: "So Betalal himself has a criminal record then?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir."

Commission: "Do you know whether Betalal has a firearm now?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir. I think he has a licensed firearm."

Commission: "He has a licensed firearm and he has a criminal record? He has a criminal record? and he has a licensed firearm?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir. Whether it has been expunged I do not know. I know Shah also has a criminal record."

Commission: "And he has a licensed firearm too?"

Witness: "And he has two licensed firearms."

Commission: "What kind?"

Witness: "A revolver and a shotgun."

Commission: "Do you know how long ago he got these licences?"

Witness: "I have it on record, but I can't recall. One was in the 1970's. One I think was in the early '80's."

Commission: "Early '80's? Just recently?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir."

Commission: "Is it the normal practice to revoke the licence after the man has had a criminal record?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir. And I know it has been the practice not to grant."

Commission: "Not to grant, but what about to revoke the licence you already have?"

Witness: "Well, Sir if you already had been granted when you had a previous record that has not been expunged, then you have set no criteria to revoke, because if you grant me when I have a record . . ."

Commission: "I think this is what he is asking. I am asking that. I mean, if you have no record and you get a licence and then subsequently you had a criminal record, then you lost the licence?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir."

Commission: "They should."

Commission: "You should lose it, yes. But they have not?"

Witness: "No, Sir they still have . . ."

Commission: "And you say this was as recent as the '80's?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir, because right now I have his revolver, because I have submitted a report and I have attached to it a copy of his convictions, pointing out that this individual ought not to be in possession of a licensed firearm."

Commission: "Are these two people the only people with criminal records who you know to have licences to hold firearms?"

Witness: "That I can't swear to, yes, Sir. There may or may not be more."

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6.8 Furthermore, from the evidence before the Commission, the direction and control by the Commissioner of the Flying Squad which supposedly was the arm of the Service responsible for the anti-drug effort at one stage, is less than what can be expected from a responsible officer. As mentioned earlier, the laxity which existed with respect to custody of drug exhibits were simply alarming.

6.9 One witness informed the Commission that, not only was record keeping with respect to exhibits unsatisfactory, but also records with respect to service weapons on issue to the Flying Squad. He stated that a .38 revolver had been stolen from the property room, and it was alleged that this was done by a Corporal Granger. He also informed the Commission that Corporal Granger was subsequently transferred but went on sick leave instead, and then on vacation leave.

6.10 Evidence as given by a police officer about the conduct of Mr. Burroughs in the course of a police raid is as follows:

Witness: "We went on that raid very early the morning, the Narcotics Squad, that is. While we were there, we just heard this set of noises. Lo and behold, the Flying Squad approached. And just as they approached, one of the guys, the Rastas, jumped through a window, and one of our men jumped after him. You know, the events, they all happened in split seconds. As Flying Squad was coming in and saw the person jumping through the window, one of the guys fired a shot. You know, one of our members could have been dead. However, the guy was held somewhere by a member of the Narcotics Squad."

Commission: "By the Narcotics Squad?"

Witness: "The Narcotics Squad."

Witness: "Well, Flying Squad, when they realised—well, people started to shout, to scream, 'Police, Police, don't shoot.' Eventually, they came in and they guarded the few persons that we were able to hold. There was one girl and three men."

Witness: "The Commissioner was on that raid, you know, and as the Commissioner got into that house, I don't know if he went berserk or what, but he just held on to these guys by their hair, you know, and started kneeling them all about the body. It was my first experience of that kind of ill-treatment by a person, by the Commissioner of Police."

Commission: "Were they in possession of anything? Was anything found in the house?"

Witness: "No."

Commission: "Nothing was found?"

Witness: "No, nothing was found."

Commission: "So the men weren't charged for anything at all, it was just. . ."

Witness: "There wasn't anything to charge them for."

Commission: "Kneel and left?"

Witness: "Well, they were taken to Headquarters and, you know, the usual thing, threatened and all that kind of thing."

Commission: "So they were taken out of your Squad's hands completely?"

Witness: "Yes. Well, at that point, when the Commissioner was there, he is in charge."

6.11 Another member of the Police Service informed the Commission that with reference to conduct of Flying Squad personnel, there was an incident where a Constable of this unit cursed the Commissioner and there was a "cuss-out" between them. A portion of this evidence is now reproduced:

Commission: "A Constable?"

Witness: "He was transferred to C.I.D."

Commission: "Just transferred to C.I.D.?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir."

Commission: "Any other disciplinary action?"

Witness: "No. Because I think when the Commissioner called St. Louis, St. Louis told him that he was wrong because he cursed the Constable first, so the Constable entitled to curse him back."

Commission: "But that is only one incident. There are several others, aren't there?"
 Witness: "Yes. Well, several . . ."
 Commission: "Not only the Commissioner?"
 Witness: "No, other seniors among . . ."
 Commission: ". . . other seniors too?"
 Witness: "Yes, Sir."
 Commission: "There was a serious breakdown of discipline?"
 Witness: "Yes, Sir, there was."

6.12 One witness described an incident at Carli Bay when he met Commissioner Burroughs at the time of delivery of cocaine from a boat which had Dole Chadee on board.

Witness: ". . . I remember a time myself and Manicou went to make a collection in Carli Bay, meet the Commissioner, Mr. Burroughs, on the beach, you know, there. The coke addict. He taste. 'Good stuff'."

Commission: "Oh! He tasted it."

Commission: "He taste what? Tasting what?"

Witness: "Sniff, sniff, (Demonstrates), you know."

Commission: "Sniffing it?"

Witness: "You know. 'Good stuff. Good stuff'."

Commission: "He was saying it is good stuff?"

Witness: "Yes. 'It go make on the market'."

Commission: "He was saying, 'it go make . . .'"

Witness: "It go make on the market."

Commission: "Where was this cocaine?"

Witness: "That was in Carli Bay . . . Well, it did come in on a boat."

Commission: "It came in on a boat?"

Witness: "Yes."

Commission: "What kind of boat?"

Witness: "A fishing boat."

Commission: "A fishing boat?"

Witness: "Yes. A pirogue."

Commission: "You don't know whose fishing boat because you went there to meet it? The same boat?"

Witness: "I believe it is a man name Dada."

Commission: "Dada?"

Witness: "Yes."

Commission: "From where?"

Witness: "From Carli Bay."

Commission: "Dada is from Carli Bay itself?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir."

Commission: "An Indian fella?"

Witness: "Yes."

Commission: "You went down there to meet that boat?"

Witness: "Yes, Sir."

Commission: "Who sent you there to meet that boat? Or how you manage to go down there to meet it?"

Witness: "I went down there with the Ramlochan brother—Manicou."

Commission: "That is the fella from El Socorro?"

Witness: "Yes, to ride as a shot-gun. Just to go down, help load it and so. They give me \$1,000 for that . . . yes. But Burroughs, he was in another vehicle."

Commission: "Who else was with Burroughs? He was alone or what?"

Witness: "A lady."

Commission: "A lady?"

Witness: "Yes. A kind of high-colour lady. A kind of Spanish."

Commission: "You don't know her name?"

Witness: "No, Sir."

Commission: "You never saw that lady before?"
 Witness: "Yes, once or twice . . ."
 Commission: ". . . About how much was it? How much cocaine that night?"
 Witness: "Well, we brought down 20 kilos . . ."
 Commission: "That was in one packet or more than one packet?"
 Witness: "No. More than one. Twenty different packets."
 Commission: "Twenty different packets?"
 Witness: "Yes."
 Commission: "And you got \$1,000 for that night?"
 Witness: "Yes."
 Commission: "When you say you all brought down 20 packets, you mean in your car?"
 Witness: "Yes, Sir."
 Commission: "Did you see the Commissioner take any in his car?"
 Witness: "Eh?"
 Commission: "Did you see the Commissioner take any in his car?"
 Witness: "Well, we leave them there."
 Commission: "You left him with Dole Chadee and the others?"
 Witness: "Yes. We left them."
 Commission: "So about how much was in the boat in all. You know?"
 Witness: "We get what we went to collect."
 Commission: "You got what you went to collect?"
 Witness: "Yes."
 Commission: "So you got it from Dole Chadee then?"
 Witness: "From the boat, yes."
 Commission: "You hear Ramlochan say he was surprised to see the Commissioner there?"
 Witness: "No. The way they talk—'Burroughs boy! God! That is we boy! He say, 'I know he is one ah we. If you see how he take the thing and he thing it dey!'"
 Commission: "Is that the only time you ever see him down there?"
 Witness: "Well, yes."
 Commission: "How long ago was that?"
 Witness: "That was some time around Carnival."
 Commission: "This year?"
 Witness: "Yes, Sir."
 Commission: "Oh! '85."
 Commission: "That was night or daytime? What time was it?"
 Witness: "That was morning. Foreday morning. Half past three, half past four, five. In the stillness of the night."
 Commission: "Now, Dole Chadee was alone in the boat?"
 Witness: "No. It had some other men in the boat with them."

6.13 With incidents such as the foregoing, the Commission was not surprised to hear from another witness that when Commissioner Burroughs was having a party he was able to ask for a boat load of wild meat from Venezuela and that this was brought for him by Mantoor. This boat load consisted of lappe, agouti, deer, wild hog.

6.14 In the testimony of one witness, he was invited on one occasion to go to a secluded spot on the coastline to witness the behaviour of certain senior policemen who were involved in the drug trade. Having arrived there, he was astonished to see Corporal Granger, a known drug dealer, receiving an attache case from a man on a boat and at that time Deputy Commissioner Phillip was standing close by looking on at the transfer.

6.15 There is evidence too that Charles Stewart alias Elephant Walk, ex-policeman and operator of many brothels, was being favoured by certain seniors within the Police Service. One Police officer informed the Commission that when he had arrested Stewart on one occasion for assisting in the running of a brothel, he was subsequently questioned by Senior Superintendent Cadette (now retired), about his action in arresting Stewart who was his friend.

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6.16 Another witness informed the Commission that Woman Corporal Carol Watson of San Fernando Station, who lives at 29, Mt. Moriah Road, San Fernando, was pushing marijuana with the assistance of her husband, Raphael Watson, a welder. In fact, this witness told the Commission that he had been pushing marijuana for Watson at the extent of 4 or 5 pounds weekly at \$800 per lb. but that he had got in arrears with his repayments to Watson to the amount of \$4,300 and as a consequence Watson had threatened to burn his house and that she had brought one Reverend, a Rasta, to beat him.

6.17 The Commission learnt from one witness that he often saw Superintendent Prime sitting on the bridge at Prince Street in the midst of drug-related activities. Although the witness could not state that Prime was engaged in such activity, the Commission found it strange that such a senior policeman could frequent such an area in the manner described.

6.18 A very interesting disclosure by one witness is that Corporal Duncan of San Fernando has a .38 (pistol or revolver) which Dole Chadee gave him, and that S.R.P. Gokool (3288) of Moruga Station, who is living in Princes Town and whose father-in-law owns the PIX Auto Supply Store on Cipero Street, sold forty .38 bullets to Dole Chadee for \$200.00.

6.19 Another very interesting disclosure was that Dole Chadee, on one occasion, had sent Corporal Duncan to collect from an associate, a .45 automatic and equipment for testing US currency notes.

ILLEGAL IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS/VIOLENT CRIME/COUNTERFEITING

7.1 There is an interesting correlation between the illegal drug trade and the presence of unlicensed firearms in the country. There is evidence that importers of marijuana and cocaine have been protecting their consignments by the use of armed guards. During the past few years, exporters of these illegal drugs into this country have not only been providing armed guards for these cargoes up to their points of entry here, but even up to the time of delivery to the importers within the country. It is understood that this practice has developed, not merely because of the need to protect these very valuable cargoes from ordinary local thieves, but because certain local importers have been known to defraud these exporters by faking the non-receipt of their illegal supplies and refusing to make payment as a consequence.

7.2 It was given in evidence that one of the ruses adopted by local importers in their efforts to defraud their overseas suppliers is to leave a small portion of their consignment at or near the place of delivery and to have the police tipped off about its whereabouts. When this location is subsequently raided, the publicity given by the police to their alleged great find is brought to the attention of their importers who are thus made to believe that the whole shipment was seized by the police. In this way the importers avoid payment which is only due upon their receipt of the goods. Another trick, and one used effectively by Chadee, is to have a police raid faked at the point of apparent purchase of a supply of illegal drugs whereupon the sellers, in fear of being arrested, would flee leaving their illicit goods behind. It was given in evidence that Chadee had a vehicle fitted with a siren so that he could arrange for a fake raid at short notice.

7.3 It is further understood that where payment for the illicit cargo is made overseas, the foreign armed guards may dispose of their weapons to locals in the drug trade thereby getting cash for themselves whilst reducing the risk of being found by the local police in illegal possession of firearms. The locals, of course, welcome the opportunity to improve their capability to protect their illicit goods. Clearly, this practice has led to the frightening incidence of an illegal presence of arms and ammunition in this country.

7.4 One extremely well-placed witness gave evidence to the effect that he handled 12 guns and a box of ammunition which belonged to Dole Chadee. Included in those guns were 5 M-16 automatic rifles, 3 12-bore shot guns, 1 16-bores hot gun, 2 other rifles and a bazooka, and a .357 magnum fitted with a silencer which was given to him by a Colombian. This witness stated that, "if you are dealing with him (Dole) and you buying weed and coke from him or what the case may be, he will give you a gun to protect yourself. If it reach a position that you want to buy it he will sell you it. This is what I know."

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7.5 Here it is useful to state that another witness described seeing bales of compressed marijuana being dropped from an unidentified aircraft off the Cedros coast and that one of the packages caused such a splash upon coming in contact with the water that he formed the opinion that it contained something heavy and not merely marijuana. It may well be assumed that the heavy object was a weapon, or weapons, of one sort or another.

7.6 There is evidence that persons engaged in transporting illicit drugs from Venezuela to the south-western peninsula in particular, for example, Mantoor and Ramon, are known to bring in arms together with their illegal cargoes.

7.7 A witness in very close and continuous contact with Dole Chadee stated that Chadee claims that about three years ago Chadee killed an unidentified man from Piparo because he knew too much. He claimed further that Indar Chadee, cousin of Dole Chadee was the person who killed Rammer with a .38 Special Revolver belonging to Dole Chadee which was later lent to Naim Naya.

7.8 There is much trickery and deception in the illegal activity of drug trafficking and it may be well to relate in some detail an incident which came to the notice of the Commission. An exceptionally well-informed witness stated that on one occasion when bales of compressed marijuana had been dropped from a plane over the Icacos area, Mantoor, a well-established dealer, collected them although these had been intended for another dealer known as Rammer. Both men were intimate friends of Dole Chadee, a prominent drug dealer, and at Chadee's residence one day, Rammer and Mantoor argued about the bales. The latter refused to hand them over. Later when Rammer and Chadee told the witness, "you know that was the boss weed and like Mantoor skul him the weed, so we planning a paray here now to skul him back the weed," Rammer is reputed to have then told Chadee, "well, look, put all the old weed you have in the house (house owned by Chadee near Couva)—weed that you have for years what ent sell and thing and we would set up something. You will get a write-up in the papers that Police break open the house and gone with all the weed, but we would get a big write-up." Chadee then said, "well, how we getting that write-up?" Rammer replied, "you don't frighten, if Mantoor read on the papers that \$3 million in weed gone, all you have to tell Mantoor is that the \$1.3 million that he give you and what you also had in the house, the Police gone with all."

7.9 Chadee then enquired of Rammer, "so how the Police going to know the weed in the house? We can't tell any and any body. This is something we have to set up real good because if Mantoor get to know we skul him, you know it might have gun-play." Rammer in turn told Chadee that he would talk with the Chief and the Chief would handle that. Two days later the Police raided the house and took the old weed that had been placed there for that purpose.

7.10 When Mantoor read about that raid, he went to see Chadee who told him that the Police had taken all he had so that he needed some to restart operations. Later Mantoor agreed to give Chadee three kilos of cocaine on consignment but subsequently Mantoor learnt that he had been tricked and there was a shoot-out. Mantoor was shot twice in his shoulder. Rammer then threw explosives at Mantoor's house and injured the latter's children. Some time afterwards, it is understood that Rammer was shot and killed by Indar Chadee, cousin of Dole Chadee. In recalling this episode, it must be mentioned it is understood that Rammer's mention of the "Chief" was a reference to Commissioner Burroughs.

7.11 In other instances, it is understood that the bad blood existing between local dealers and overseas exporters, and also between competing local dealers, has resulted in violence in which there have even been some killings. The existing situation is that it is the practice for major dealers to provide strong-armed escorts for their cargoes to the extent that corrupt policemen and even soldiers have on occasions been engaged in this function. Indeed, the Commission has been informed that marked Police Service vehicles have been used for this purpose as their presence tends to give a legitimate appearance to the other vehicles in the operation.

7.12 The Commission has been told, as mentioned in the opening paragraph of this Section, that in recent times in order to avoid being defrauded, armed Venezuelans and even armed Colombians have come here to ensure that consignments from their countries reach the local importers and also to take back the payment to the exporters in their homelands.

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7.13 During the course of its hearings, many incidents were recounted which demonstrate an extensive connection between illegal drug activity and violent crime, and also counterfeiting.

7.14 Another very delicately positioned witness gave in evidence before the Commission that he witnessed an argument between a drug pusher named Creamy and Chaitram Gayah at Gayah's business place on Leotaud Street, and saw Creamy hit Gayah severely about his mouth and chest.

7.15 Later this witness saw Creamy, drugged from smoking a cigarette made of a mixture of cocaine and marijuana given to him by Gayah who then, together with Ramon, took him to sea in Ramon's boat and then after about three to four hours had elapsed, Gayah and Ramon came back without Creamy. The witness is of the opinion that they had killed Creamy and dumped his body at sea, as Gayah had warned him that if at any time he had spoken about what he had seen, he too would go the same way.

7.16 The witness stated that he later told ASP Pierre about all this but without any results as far as he was aware. At the time of informing ASP Pierre, witness was unaware of the close association between Pierre and Gayah. Later, as he maintained contact with Gayah, he realised that Pierre was a close friend of Gayah and that Pierre and Gayah worked together in the importation and sale of counterfeit US currency. He recalled that on one occasion Gayah gave him \$4,000 to give to Pierre.

7.17 This witness also stated that one Jason Beharry of Princes Town and Chaitram Gayah were engaged in the illegal importation of arms into this country from the United States. Indeed, he stated that two Trinidadians who were arrested recently in Miami as a consequence of their purchase of arms and ammunition there, were, in fact, working for Jason Beharry.

7.18 The witness stated that they had the weapons and/or ammunition sealed in stereo equipment and in this way proceeded to evade discovery by Customs officials. The witness' words were:

"They are coming in their stereo boxes, inside it. You know those large stereo boxes, the large speakers, now they don't be directly in the boxes, you know, there is a cover behind it, they take it out, the big speaker, right, it does be inside the speakers, the stereo equipment . . ."

". . . They have an electronics business place next to Sports and Games in San Fernando. You know where Sports and Games is, off High Street, a little side street there. I don't know the precise name of that street there . . ."

". . . I know for a fact that he, (Chaitram Gayah) sold a Mr. Dole Chadee two barrels of arms already . . ."

7.19 Another witness gave in evidence that he saw a submachine gun in Gayah's car on one occasion, and that on another, in November 1984, he saw Gayah with four submachine guns which he was taking to Chaguanas. (Gayah lives in Chaguanas)

7.20 This witness described one Manickchand Ragoonanan of La Romain who operates a tailor shop at Pointe-a-Pierre Road, San Fernando, as a person from whom arms could be obtained. Manickchand is described as a former prisoner. He stated that Ragoonanan on one occasion sent him to one Camache alias Todd in Caroni, who then took him to another man who had a revolver. Camache is described as someone who had already done a prison term for a wounding committed in Caroni.

7.21 Another witness on close terms with Teddy Mice Khan described on occasions how Khan would use him to rob Spanish-speaking people who had come to supply him with cocaine. It is best to recall the witness' words:

"Well, when they come through, they might set up a sale as if they buying, and they might give we guns to come now and give themselves guns. You know? Make it look like real, nah. Take the people and them cocaine. You know? And jump in a car and drive round a corner. Keep it for them."

7.22 Another witness, a well-placed official who, undoubtedly, is privy to the activity of a wide range of criminals, in speaking to the Commission, made reference to the recent murder in San Juan of a criminal called Kelvin Williams (alias Bacchanal). It would be appropriate to reproduce a section of this interview:

Witness: "... You are well aware that a man called Bacchanal was recently killed."

Commission: "Yes, with the San Juan or Santa Cruz thing."

Witness: "You will remember when I was here last, I spoke of one man being responsible for all the robberies that took place all over Trinidad and that—because I knew him at the . . . (inaudible) . . . That is the man called Bacchanal. He is only about twenty-two. He died at that age, twenty-two, but he lived, you know, at twenty-two years, he really lived, so to speak. But when he was killed, from what I hear, people in Puerto Rico offered to send their hit man to take care of the people who killed Bacchanal. People were charged with murdering him—that is, other drug suppliers in El Socorro, Manicou and his lot. I think Manicou was charged with the actual murder and about six of them were charged with conspiring . . ."

Commission: "So that you heard that people in Puerto Rico were prepared to come in . . ."

Witness: "... to send their hit man down here to take care of the people who killed Bacchanal, but the family did not accept the offer. So far as I know, they are in constant contact with the people he worked with in Puerto Rico and Colombia."

Commission: "What role does he play?"

Witness: "Many. He, in the first instance when cocaine used to be brought here from Colombia by plane through Piarco, he would get wind of the fact that they were travelling with cocaine and long before their transport ever reached wherever they were going, they were held up and robbed. All in Piarco, they were . . . (inaudible) . . ."

"Now, Bacchanal worked mostly alone, together may be with one fellow who was killed just before him by the same people in Barataria, and they would bring the drug and sell it to people like Teddy Mice, Naim Naya, Manicou from down in Aranguez, but they paid them very little for it. They took, let us put it this way because as I know Bacchanal said, they took advantage of them because they didn't know the value of the thing, paid them next to nothing and sold it for a great deal of money."

"That went on for some time until the Police became a lot more active and things slowed down for a bit. Then Bacchanal took to going to them for protection money because he used to go and shoot up their people outside their clubs willy nilly, saying that he came for money that they owed him."

"And what he was saying was that what they paid initially for the coke he sold them, that they still owed him thousand of dollars. Well, I think that is what caused his death in El Socorro. That is what he went for that day, and they set out to eliminate him because he was a thorn in their side. A very vicious young man, very vicious."

Commission: "Let me see if I can get the connection there. He, as it were, was preying on these people who were bringing in the stuff there. He used to be tipped off. You don't know by whom?"

Witness: "This is the idea. He would rob them . . ."

Commission: "Yes. But do you know who he was tipped off by? Because he must get this information in advance to know that these people are coming from Colombia."

Witness: "I don't know. Maybe from some of the hustlers, perhaps people like Naim Naya. They would know it was coming."

Commission: "Yes, but how does the Puerto Rico side come into that? And why should people in Puerto Rico want to avenge him?"

Witness: "Well, I heard—that's one side of how Bacchanal was involved in this but I know too that he himself had connections in Colombia, and he used to travel very frequently to Colombia and Puerto Rico."

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Commission: "Who is this? Bacchanal?"
 Witness: "Yes. Very frequently. He is always in and out of the country . . ."
 Commission: "What type of man was he? A young man?"
 Witness: "Yes. He was 22."
 Commission: ". . . So there were friends of Bacchanal in Puerto Rico?"
 Witness: "Yes. He used to bring coke from Colombia, and I am told that he used to walk through the Customs with it. Just walk straight through, because they had threatened a number of Customs officials. He would just walk right through with a suitcase of coke. That is what I understand. And the people from Puerto Rico were involved in the spreading of counterfeit U.S. currency in Trinidad. He brought a good bit back from Puerto Rico and he was involved in selling counterfeit U.S. currency here."

7.23 There was abundant evidence about involvement in counterfeiting particularly by Chaitram Gayah and his associates, A.S.P. Pierre, Leslie Ross and Sahadeo Doobay of San Fernando. It was stated that Gayah had a number of persons working for him as sellers of counterfeit money.

7.24 One witness recalled a trip with Gayah to Miami and Colombia in making arrangements for illegal importation of counterfeit U.S. currency into this country. The witness stated that it was difficult for U.S. currency to be made here and for that reason they went abroad to obtain it. Sahadeo Doobay frequently travelled to Cali, Colombia to get forged U.S. currency and forged American Express travellers cheques. Sometimes Sahadeo Doobay brings in the stuff for Gayah. The witness stated that a taxi driver usually cleared most of the packages for Gayah and Doobay through the Customs. In fact, witness stated that he had been engaged for some time in selling, on a commission, counterfeit U.S. money, not only for Gayah, but also for ASP Pierre. He stated that ASP Pierre and Gayah would put him in contact with likely purchasers and related in some detail the conduct of this criminal activity.

7.25 This witness informed the Commission that Gayah has an account at the Commercial Trust Bank in Miami and that he had supplied the address of the bank and the number of the account to Special Branch in April, 1985. The witness also stated that he knew that Gayah had some \$125,000 to \$130,000 in his account at that bank.

7.26 It was given in evidence that one of the sellers of counterfeit money had defaulted in the remission of \$60,000 TT to Gayah from these illegal sales and that Gayah had attempted to have him killed for this. The Commission heard that the defaulting seller was taken to the home of ASP Pierre at the request of the latter and in the presence of Sahadeo Doobay and Gayah, Pierre questioned him about his non-payment to Gayah of the money which he owed him. When the person told Pierre that he did not know that he (Pierre) was connected with this, Pierre replied that he should not ask him anything, adding "if you don't pay back the people and them their money, you will be a dead man by tonight." Pierre then slapped the man on his face and told Gayah that the person "ought to be dead already like Creamy."

7.27 Subsequently, it is stated that Pierre told Gayah to "go to the San Fernando C.I.D. and make a report to the effect that he had been robbed."

7.28 There was another instance in which Pierre was described as instructing persons to make false reports to the Police. The Commission learnt that on one occasion detectives from the San Fernando C.I.D. searched the home of Leslie Ross while he was away but in the presence of his wife. Subsequently, on learning about this, Ross was very annoyed and went to Gayah who then made a telephone call and about 15 to 20 minutes later ASP Pierre went to Gayah's office. Ross told Pierre about the search, in the presence of Gayah and others. Pierre then advised Ross to go to the San Fernando C.I.D. and make an allegation to the effect that a certain gold bracelet belonging to his wife, Cheryl, was missing. Ross then asked why he should make such an allegation and Pierre said, "because they will not harass you, they will not take the chance to go and search your home again."

7.29 The importation of a counterfeit money-making machine by Gayah and ASP Pierre's involvement in its transportation is recounted thus by one witness:

- Witness: "This machine was brought into Trinidad in parts, right. It came in three small boxes. Now, it was air freighted, they didn't travel with this. Right? Mr. Gayah air freighted it from Bogota to Port-of-Spain. It went from Bogota via Curacao/Port-of-Spain. It was air freighted. He had the landing papers for it to clear it here when it arrived. When this machine arrived here, I was present when it was cleared. I know which house it was delivered to, which, of course I already gave to the Police, and I showed them where the house was and everything, and the house that I showed them, they said that a lot of counterfeit money and they . . ."
- Commission: "Which house is this?"
- Witness: ". . . The machine was brought in here and cleared. At the time when it was cleared, well, I was present, Mr. Doobay was present, Mr. Gayah was present and Mr. Pierre was present. Mr. Pierre was in this one . . ."
- Commission: "Was it at Piarco?"
- Witness: "Yes, Sir. But Mr. Pierre was not at Piarco, right. Mr. Pierre was at home. Now . . ."
- Commission: "At his home?"
- Witness: "Yes, Sir."
- Commission: "When you say it was cleared, you were present when it was cleared, at the Customs?"
- Witness: "I wasn't inside, Sir. I was outside in the airport."
- Commission: "I see. You were at Piarco Airport."
- Witness: "Mr. Gayah and Mr. Sahadeo Doobay went to Mr. Karan. He gave them the papers. You know, when you air freight something, they give you papers to clear it at the port of arrival."
- Commission: "Mr. Karan?"
- Witness: "That's all I know him as, Karan. He works at the airport. The police . . ."
- Commission: "Is that the same taxi driver you are talking about?"
- Witness: "The taxi driver, right.
In this incident, they went and they got—I was not there, I was in the car, and they brought it out."
- Commission: "They came out with it?"
- Witness: "Right. Two boxes were put in the trunk, one put in the back seat, right?
Now, at that point in time, you know—I don't know if you know but usually late at night they have a search—well, checking for licence and insurance and so on in San Fernando Roundabout and sometimes coming down the highway, right? You know about those Special Police and them stop you and say, let me see your licence and insurance and all that, or they search your car or they open your trunk."
- Commission: "Yes."
- Witness: "Now, Mr. Pierre, Mr. Gayah owned—at that time Mr. Gayah owned a car—I think he still owns it. This car was a 280ZX, blue, car number PAH 6262. That is the number of the car. It's a 280ZX Datsun Sports, blue, PAH 6262. Mr. Pierre used that car—Mr. Gayah gave him that car to use and the boxes were placed in this car, right? And Mr. Pierre drove this car. It was already parked when we arrived at Mr. Pierre's house, eh, to the Motor Mart where they went in and they discussed their business."
- Commission: "What time was that?"
- Witness: "That time it was about ten o'clock."

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- Commission: "At night?"
- Witness: "Yes, Sir."
- Commission: "But you never told us about what time, when this thing came in, you know, what year. How long ago was this?"
- Witness: "That was last year, Sir."
- Commission: "Last year? What time last year?"
- Witness: "Around last year, it was the month, before June, I think."
- Commission: "May?"
- Witness: "May, yes."
- "Now, at that time, Mr. Pierre had a little argument with Mr. Gayah and told him that how—you see, the main reason—now, I didn't understand exactly what was going on but Mr. Pierre was telling Mr. Gayah that if he used his own car, it would be better because if an officer or a road block came up, he being an officer in his car, right? Nobody wouldn't suspect him of carrying anything illegal so they decided to use his car instead."
- Commission: "I don't quite follow this."
- Witness: "They want Mr. Pierre to use the 280ZX to take those boxes to a certain destination."
- Commission: "Yes, but from where to where? What car they came down in from the airport?"
- Witness: "From the airport we came down in a 280C."
- Commission: "That is what they wanted Mr. Pierre to drive from the airport? Is that what they wanted to do?"
- Witness: "No. We went from the airport to Mr. Pierre's home."
- Commission: "When they got to Pierre's home they put it in his car and drive it away?"
- Witness: "Right. Now, nobody would not stop an officer."
- Commission: "This is what Pierre said?"
- Witness: "Right. That's what he said.
Now, we were behind—myself, Tory and Mr. Gayah was behind, and Mr. Pierre was driving, and we went to a place called Cunupia. You know when you go to Chaguanas . . ."
- Commission: "We know Cunupia."
- Witness: ". . . And they took the machine to that house. Mr. Pierre and Mr. Gayah spoke briefly. Some East Indian people live at this house, and they had their conversation inside while I was in the car. And we left, and that was it."

7.30 Another particularly well-placed witness in the expansive drug community stated that Colombians were bringing in counterfeit US currency here and named one Alexandre as one of those persons who had been selling this here at 3 to 1 and buying genuine US money at \$3.50 to 1.

7.31 The Commission has also heard evidence to the effect that Krishna Maharaj and Adam Hosein, both of whom are allegedly Trinidad and Tobago nationals, have been domiciled in Miami for the past two (2) years where they operate a business known as the KDM Enterprise in partnership with one Derek Mooyoung, a Jamaican, who has been described as a well-known drug dealer. It was stated that Maharaj and Hosein have been visiting Trinidad very frequently during the past two (2) or three (3) years and that they each maintain suites on a full time basis at the Holiday Inn in Port-of-Spain.

7.32 It is said that Maharaj is the brother of Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj, Suresh Maharaj of National Commercial Bank, and Rabindra Maharaj, former Managing Director of the *Bomb*, a local weekly newspaper and now Managing Director of the *Blast*, another local weekly newspaper.

7.33 The Commission was informed also that in at least two (2) instances in 1985, equipment imported through KDM Enterprise for the Blast newspaper, specifically a vertical camera and a printing press, were worth far less than the amounts stated on the relevant invoices. In the circumstances, it is alleged that KDM Enterprise, together with the management of the Blast newspaper, have been conspiring to defraud this country of foreign exchange. Moreover, because of the reputation of Mooyoung of KDM Enterprise, it is believed that in addition to being a partner in the conspiracy as alleged, that KDM Enterprise may be a source of supply of narcotics imported into this country.

7.34 The Commission recognises this possibility in the light of evidence received that the Headquarters of the Blast newspaper, in virtual isolation in the lower El Socorro district, is located close to a tributary of the Caroni River which is known to be used by small boats bringing illegal drugs surreptitiously into this country. What is more, the Commission was also informed that the mother of Teddy Mice Khan, a very prominent drug dealer of San Juan, lived on the edge of this water course in very close proximity to this newspaper's office.

7.35 Finally, the Commission was also informed that in the course of 1985, when, because of an industrial dispute certain employees of the Bomb broke away to form the Blast newspaper, the latter was launched with finance provided by Teddy Mice Khan. The Commission was also informed that because of the poor financial state of the Bomb which was well established at that time and the worsening economic climate in the country, it is very likely that the apparent viability of the fledgling Blast newspaper became dependent upon funding from sources derived from the illegal drug trade.

7.36 The Commission was informed that Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj made contact with the criminal element in the first part of last year when he was seeking to have revenge taken on one Spencer who had kicked and beaten him in a restaurant. Maharaj was deeply humiliated and said that he would pay any amount of money to deal with Spencer. The man who was to act on behalf of Maharaj was to obtain a car and a driver from Chaitram Gayah to carry out his mission. Subsequently, Suruj Rambachan, who was described as a big man in the ONR Party and Chairman from Siparia, was said to be insisting that the man be killed. The evidence also disclosed that Ramesh Maharaj had offered the "hit man" a .38 revolver and that he had given him sums of money from time to time and a tour of the area which Spencer lived but it is not known that the "hit man" eventually received the sum of \$35,000 which he wanted. It would appear that the "hit man" did not complete the job he was offered resulting in the classic case of the biter being severely bitten.

7.37 As with the case of the crime of counterfeiting, which strictly speaking was outside its terms of reference but which came to the knowledge of the Commission as its perpetrators were also engaged in illicit drug activity, the Commission wishes to state that one witness testified that certain policemen of the San Juan Station were in "cahoots" with car thieves. He mentioned one Shukla of El Socorro as one who stole cars and falsified chassis numbers and that Corporal Roach and Constable Rush of San Juan Police Station were assisting Shukla.

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC FACTOR

8.1 The Commission was told that in the largely agricultural south-eastern sector of the country, there were not very many cultural activities which would engage the interest of those who were fortunate enough to get a good secondary education. In the case of a person wishing to attend a good concert, it became necessary to travel to San Fernando or Port-of-Spain. One witness made the point that it was therefore not surprising that the better educated person often tended to leave such an area. Those without such an education lacked opportunities for improving themselves economically resulting in a great deal of frustration. It was felt that similar circumstances existed in other agricultural districts far removed from the urban ones. The Commission was aware that there were other influences fostering population shift towards the towns, but noted that inadequacy of recreational facilities would tend to precipitate such movement.

8.2 With reference to the sale of marijuana in the south-east sector of the country, it was stated that in early 1984, the price of a bag of marijuana had dropped to \$500, while a bag of dasheen leaves was \$50 or \$60, making it economically unrealistic to abandon the growing and sale of marijuana. Indeed, this point was also made by a witness commenting upon the planting of this shrub in places such as Moruga, Biche, Tamana and Tobago.

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8.3 With further reference to the situation in the south-east Trinidad area, the Commission was informed that there were a number of people who had sold marijuana to obtain a financial start in building their houses or obtaining taxis or other means of earning a livelihood, and then having achieved their objective abandoned the trade. It was held that the plan was a simple one, thus—"You began, you planted a small amount, you raised enough to pay a fine if you were caught, and you put that aside, and then you planted the larger amount; and when that came in, you set up whatever you were going to set up, and you came out of it."

8.4 Incidentally, it was held that traditionally the use of alcohol was very liberal in rural districts. The Commission is aware that alcohol has often been clandestinely and illegally made in these areas. Consequently, the use of marijuana is often regarded as no worse than the use of alcohol. Indeed, one witness said, "In the old days the Africans used alcohol and the Indians used ganja, and it was a bit of discrimination that the ganja got banned and some of the Indians switched over to alcohol, but really there is nothing wrong with marijuana, that is a general kind of attitude. So they only see it as a legal problem and that is quickly overcome within their thinking by seeing this as the only feasible way to get out of a crippling economic situation." In rural districts there was thus a tendency to accept the illegal use of marijuana.

8.5 An interesting bit of evidence was to the effect that the use of trap guns by planters of marijuana was not directed in the main against the police but rather against persons who would seek to steal their crops. In some instances, it is known that members of the public and even a policeman have been killed by these weapons. In many other instances, persons have been injured, some severely.

8.6 The Commission was informed that cocaine smoking sessions were held in very many places and one particular witness recalled attending sessions in Barataria, Boissiere, Belmont and Petit Valley. He stated that on one occasion he attended such a session at a house owned by one Clive Zanda on Morne Coco Road and another at the home of Krishna at Boissiere in the vicinity of Bergerac. He also recalled meeting a Government Minister in a cocaine session at Valsayn and seeing another Government Minister snorting cocaine at a wedding. Another witness informed the Commission that a Government Minister attended cocaine sessions at Laventille.

8.7 There is evidence to the effect that the drug trade is linked in some way with prostitution, in that many young women arriving in the country from places such as Columbia, are reputed to enter with cocaine concealed on their persons. It was stated that supplies were received in this manner by a former policeman, Charles Stewart alias Elephant Walk, who is known to operate a number of hotels and night spots where these young women perform their functions both legal and illegal. One witness stated that on a particular occasion Stewart was found to have in his custody the passports of 175 of these persons. Stewart is known to enjoy a very close relationship with Commissioner Burroughs and to have telephoned him at his home immediately after a police search of his premises to complain about that action. A very disturbing bit of evidence is that he is in the illegal possession of arms, and further that on one occasion he provided the police with a weapon which was planted on a criminal who had been killed by them allegedly in a "shoot-out".

EDUCATION FACTOR

9.1 In dealing with the non-wage earning users of drugs, it emerged from the evidence before the Commission that many children had received very substantial amounts of pocket money from their parents, even \$200 per week! In one instance it was stated that a 16-year old school girl hired a hotel room for a "grass and coke" party! One witness stated, "It is one of the kind of funny things I find about what has happened with the education, with the passing (of exams) and so on, that the parents just feel obliged to give their children, you know, pocket change. Even when they themselves are in very difficult circumstances, they would manage to give their children."

9.2 Evidence also disclosed that parents have been known to cultivate marijuana and have their children assist in its selling. Indeed, as one witness to the Commission put it, "well, the boys have to earn a bread somehow . . ." The Commission engaged a qualified Psychiatric Social Worker to conduct a survey into the extent of the drug problem at secondary schools and his report is appended at Appendix A.

9.3 From the evidence before the Commission, the problem confronting school administrators is clearly a very serious one. One eminently qualified witness with considerable experience in education said, "I have the feeling that on the basis of factual information that we have a drug problem in all the schools, but moreso in Comprehensive Schools . . ." In referring to a Senior Comprehensive School it was stated, "We have conducted over the last couple years some tests . . . and we have compiled some statistics which show that at least one-third of our students perform at the age group level 6-9"

9.4 From the evidence before us it was adduced that in very many instances children, unprepared though they may be, were passed through the system from primary through secondary level resulting in an overwhelming failure rate at CXC, GCE and National Examinations. One witness very experienced in the local education system stated, "I feel the solution in terms of the education system is to be a heavy concentration at the primary level and if—there has been talk about giving another year at the Senior Comprehensive, that wouldn't help. You could give people ten years, when they have no background it wouldn't work. So I think the basic foundation must be emphasised at the primary level and if they are going to give a third year, possibly at the Junior Secondary level . . ."

9.5 This witness told the Commission in dealing with Comprehensive Schools, "you have more than 50 per cent of your teachers who are nothing more than journeymen. They have come from the factories, they have come from industry, they have no training in teaching professionalism at all . . . So you have the problem of an inadequate type of teacher in that level of education. You have the problem of the type of student that you have coming in, you have the problem of the unsuitability of the examination. Ninety per cent of our students would not get one single GCE, CXC . . . The failure rate—and this is typical of all the Comprehensives, the trade schools are doing a better job than we are, even though we are spending millions, the technical/vocational areas in terms of exams that are presently set have a 99 per cent failure rate. A complete waste of funds.

9.6 "We do have quite a number of excellent teachers but we have a number of people who have no business in the teaching profession and when you have to deal with 5 or 10 delinquent teachers, it takes up more time and energy than if you have to deal with 100 progressive programmes".

9.7 The Commission was told that some teachers are known to be users of illicit drugs. This in itself must be a disincentive to efforts to build an aversion in the student population towards the illicit drug habit.

9.8 In commenting directly upon the taking up of the drug habit, the witness continued, "In our case, the students come and they cannot perform, so that technically they must—I put it as *plainly* as saying, they must enjoy themselves. They must do something, whether it is mischief, whatever it is, and this is where the problem comes in. I think the peer group pressures are extremely strong particularly with the type of student who comes from disadvantaged home background, so that he had nothing to get at home . . ."

9.9 One witness who is an experienced educator held that students need to be given something that would give them a feeling of being somebody in God's world. He indicated that having made a great effort, difficulties were overcome and at the Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive School a special programme was now in operation which catered for students who were interested in fishing and boat-building. It had been observed that efforts to have them involved in agriculture had not been a success for very many had come from the disadvantaged sections of the community where there was no land space, and consequently, agriculture did not appeal to them. Now that the fishing/boat-building programme was in its second year, these same students were now working as though for the first time they felt interested in learning. The development of these students along useful avenues is of great importance to the country because, by sheer weight of numbers, they are likely to significantly influence the development of the country.

9.10 Another eminently qualified witness with very extensive knowledge of the local situation informed the Commission that each Primary School Supervisor had incidents of illicit drug use in his particular area and that the incidence of such use was greater in the secondary schools. However, an Awareness Programme was being run in secondary schools in an attempt to cope with the problem.

9.11 He stated, "We do have a drug problem in the country, and I believe it is more than a school problem—a home problem, it is a national and it is a society's problem, and it has spread and is spreading in the schools and in the adult population, and as the days go by, I believe it is increasing". He continued, "Parents are making demands on their children to achieve, pass examinations, get jobs, but the way we are structured, all the students cannot pass the examination. Some consider themselves failures and for this reason parents, I believe, generally are not giving enough attention to their children. Some of them do not know where their children are after school until late hours in the night. I believe too some of our teachers are not paying enough attention to their children.

9.12 "Drugs are—I am talking about marijuana—it's easily accessible and children, a lot of them, nearly all of them are given allowances to spend and the start is very easy. I believe it's like something, you get a free one and once you are on it then you'll have to buy. So with easy access and the pressures you have and the money you have to spend, it sets the climate very easily for a student to go on drugs". He added that in secondary school it was not uncommon for some children to get between \$5 and \$10 per day but in the primary school the amount was less.

9.13 The Commission was informed that in a case at Guayaguayare R.C. School some time ago where a parent was pushing marijuana, that the Principal, teachers and even Supervisors were making use of the drug. It heard that incidents of marijuana use had come to attention at many of the major schools including St. Mary's and Queen's Royal Colleges, Convents, Tranquillity and Diego Martin Government Secondary, El Dorado Senior Comprehensive, Marabella Junior Secondary and various others. One witness expressed the opinion that the problem is greater in the secondary schools because the children had bigger allowances and there were more drug pushers in the urban areas in which these institutions were located with their school populations which were regarded as markets for their goods. It was learnt that students with the drug habit would go considerable distances to get their supplies as boys from Tranquillity Secondary were known to go to a pusher who sold near to the South-East Port-of-Spain Secondary School. The Commission did not hear of reports of cocaine use in schools but does not discount this.

9.14 One witness of wide experience stated that he was not aware of any reports of marijuana used in primary schools in the Caroni sector although he had made enquiries about that. He observed that while there was an obligation on Principals to bring any incident of illegal drug use to the attention of the Ministry of Education even though they may have dealt with it, many Principals do not report such incidents but try to treat them locally. He added that Principals were very loath to report such incidents to the police.

9.15 This witness was of the opinion that Principals relied largely upon the Guidance Unit of the Ministry for assistance with the drug problem. The Unit not only dealt with incidents of drug use but conducted programmes on drugs. There were 57 Guidance Officers for about 94 Secondary Schools. The intention is to have one Guidance Officer in each secondary school and one such officer to service a number of primary schools. The view of the Commission is that knowledge about good school guidance is very rare in the world and that care had to be taken to ensure that the Guidance Officers were adequately trained. Inadequate training is likely to do more harm than good.

9.16 One very significant feature which came to attention was the loss of neighbourhood schools. The Commission learnt that a former secondary school principal who had retired in 1971 had observed that he remembered that some years earlier 80 per cent of his boys lived within 3 miles of the school but when he had checked a few years ago only 15 per cent were then living within 5 miles of the school. This school is in Port-of-Spain. This principal is of the view that if one checked at New Town Boys R.C. where the enrolment was about 800, hardly 100 students would be found residing in the vicinity of New Town. This feature resulted not only from the attractiveness of schools with good records but also because working parents found it convenient to take their children to and from school as they travelled between home and their places of work.

9.17 It was suggested to the Commission that if children were made to attend schools within their residential districts that this would cause parents and children to take a greater interest in their schools. It was added that there would be much less vandalism of schools and a greater community spirit. However, the children would be better supervised as they were always nearer home. Indeed, parental control would be facilitated as more students would be able to have lunch at home. However, it cannot be held that zoning was the solution as in keeping with their constitutional rights parents may elect to send their children to schools of their choice away from their home districts.

9.18 Sadly it was evident that the drug problem was present not only in the student population but to a lesser extent among the teachers. The Commission heard of instances in which teachers were using illegal drugs but none in which teachers were engaged in pushing same.

9.19 The Commission is of the view that frequently children have more need of models than of precepts. Accordingly, the screening of teachers may be more important than what they teach. It was noted that there was no mechanism for screening teachers or applicants for teaching appointments to keep out drug abusers including heavy users of alcohol, but merely an examination of academic qualifications and ability to impart knowledge.

9.20 The Commission is of the view that the screening process is absolutely necessary especially in the case of Guidance Officers. It was learnt that one Guidance Officer had allegedly made sexual advances to male students.

HEALTH FACTOR

10.1 It was obvious that the abuse of drugs was affecting the mental well-being of many persons in the society and in the course of the enquiry, the Commission heard evidence from medical personnel. It was revealed that there was an increasing demand for treatment of drug-related illnesses at the St. Ann's Hospital and its supportive treatment centres at St. James, Sangre Grande, Point Fortin, Couva and Tunapuna.

10.2 One psychiatrist had no doubt that in the community there was a large problem in relation to alcohol. He related that at St. Ann's over the period 1978-82 about 20-25 per cent of the admissions were alcohol related. At the Alcoholic Treatment Centre (ATC) there, a 20-bed unit specifically designed to treat people suffering from alcoholism, over 300 patients were treated annually and, in addition, treatment at out-patient clinics was quite heavily in demand. He stated, "our problem we have though is that the ATC is primarily a male unit. We have only male beds. The 20 beds are male beds and when female alcoholics are treated, they have to come as day patients which is a large problem for them because they have to remain on the general admission areas in the hospitals and then come over to day patients, so that's a large problem."

10.3 At St. Ann's alone, it was stated in evidence that in 1984 there were about 30 people with a diagnosis of cocaine abuse, or cocaine psychosis, while by June, 1985 there were about 20 with similar psychosis. A particularly well-placed medical witness held that while the number may not be very large he was of the opinion that people were not coming forward to be treated.

10.4 Two major buildings at St. Ann's Hospital had been recently destroyed by fire and this aggravated the need for improvement in the facilities there as two older buildings had to be closed because of their need to be repaired. In fact, the Commission was told of leaking roofs and that nurses and patients had been injured by falling through weak flooring. Fortunately, steps are being taken to effect some renovation.

10.5 Another problem, as mentioned by one witness is "the lack of other kinds of resources in the community like halfway houses and, you know, the stages that would provide a transition for the person back into the community. That's totally lacking". It is only true to state that the lack of facilities is directly relevant to treatment available to other drug-related patients.

10.6 One psychiatrist told the Commission that up to the start of 1984 he had never seen a cocaine dependent person at St. Ann's but that he had seen one or two in his private practice in the 3 years or so, before that time. However, gradually since January, 1984 people were coming to St. Ann's for help in relation to cocaine. Prior to that time, however, he had become aware that the availability of cocaine had increased in the community but it obviously took some time before people began to become dependent upon that drug.

10.7 This witness continued to state that in the period October/December '84 about 6 cocaine addicts were admitted to the ATC at St. Ann's Hospital and that in the period January to March '85 the Centre was being overwhelmed as no less than 8 to 10 of its 20 beds were occupied by cocaine dependants and additional staff was needed but none was received.

10.8 From the end of April '85 no further cocaine addicts were admitted because of the staff shortage but additional treatment was given to such persons as out-patients. This witness puts it thus:

"When we started meeting the cocaine dependent ones it became apparent that they needed more supervision, and my feeling is that the craving, the urging to use cocaine is one of the most intense kinds of craving that you can get from that, and when it happens, you have to have staff there to persuade the addict not to go for the drugs. In addition, many of the addicts are younger than the usual alcoholics and they are more inclined to take risks, and they are more assertive, and their discipline is probably not as well organised as maybe the alcohol dependent person. So we thought that we needed more supervision and requested that we get additional staff to cover the ward at night. We never got that. We never got that."

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10.9 In commenting upon the performance of the staff, he continued:

"They have tried their best to function, but it really has been very difficult for them, because they are just not equipped to deal with the type of individual that the cocaine addict is in many, many ways, even in terms of the—how shall I say it—the psychological understanding of the staff. You see, St. Ann's has been dealing for years with people who are psychotic, who are extremely mentally ill, or people who are, let's say, dangerous in one way or the other, and their style, because of a number of reasons, maybe primarily, I think, the most important one being lack of staff, is to use medication and to operate in a containment kind of way.

Now, the cocaine addicts are not severely mentally ill, and they are assertive people who frequently know their rights. They are also people who are willing to take risks and chances, so they are difficult to manage, especially with the system that has developed in St. Ann's. And, to my mind, the staff is going to need a lot of training, a lot of retraining because, as you can well imagine, it arouses a lot of feeling within the staff when patients ask questions and doesn't do immediately what they are directed to do. And it really arouses a lot of problems.

So there is a tremendous need for the retraining of staff or maybe even selection of specific staff to work with the cocaine addicts."

10.10 The figures quoted earlier relate only to Port-of-Spain but it is to be taken into account that at the same time cocaine addicts were warded at other centres. The total figures were not available but this psychiatrist witness was of the view that at St. Ann's Hospital and Ward 8, Port-of-Spain General Hospital and also San Fernando General Hospital there would have been a total of about 20 addicts warded.

10.11 He continued that it is very difficult to ascertain how many people are being treated in the country for cocaine addiction and explained the situation in this way—

"I was trying to do that up at St. Ann's, and I really had to give up, because the recording system is so poor. You see, some people just write down under diagnosis, 'drug dependency'. Some may write down 'cocaine dependence'. Some may write down 'drug induced psychosis'."

10.12 This witness also expressed the opinion that:

"Increase in the use of drugs had to do with availability and that has to do with people in areas where influence can allow the drug to be distributed to the extent to which it's being distributed.

You see, availability is extremely important, you know, and it would be like I say, spinning top in mud to expect to develop facilities and to develop strategies to reduce demands and so on without really clamping down on the availability, you see, so that I think it would be extremely important to take action but I also realise the tremendous ramifications of taking the type of action that the situation requires."

10.13 This witness also told the Commission that he had been told of a group in Arima that was using cocaine injected intravenously but that he had not seen any of that at all at the Treatment Centre at St. Ann's.

10.14 He informed the Commission that he had been told that Mr. Burroughs is significantly involved in protecting the big pushers in the country and that certain Government Ministers were dealing in illegal drugs and were also making use of them. He also mentioned that a prominent bank official had been named as a user of narcotics.

10.15 If ever there was doubt that any one committed crime because of the drug habit, this was dispelled by one psychiatrist who stated, "In the last two months I have had almost 4 people who committed offences because they needed money to buy the drug. Now this, of course, is a serious problem. These are people without a lot of means so they have to resort to stealing things from their own homes, from their mother and father, or break and enter to get money to buy the drugs."

10.16 This witness told the Commission that his patients had named the Commissioner of Police and policemen at Diego Martin, Couva and Arima as being some of the people involved in the drug problem. He said too that the patients claimed that when drugs were seized by the police, very little was destroyed but that it was sold. Moreover, he said that his patients from the Belmont and Nelson Street areas claimed that the drug pushers had police protection. Further, these patients claimed that at least 30 per cent of these policemen were using drugs.

10.17 The witness also said that he had been told of a man who had got in a load of marijuana and had offered a Customs Officer \$100,000 to help him clear it. The Customs Officer refused but it was later cleared by someone who had accepted the bribe.

10.18 This doctor/witness of long experience at St. Ann's Hospital stated that he had met very few cases of hashish and intravenous drug abuse and no heroin addiction but many instances of morphine and pethadine abuse. He mentioned that in the past, St. Ann's had cases of illness through the use of mandrax, LSD and datur but that these seem to be no longer in favour. He added there was hardly any use of PCP and amphetamines.

10.19 The witness made the alarming disclosure that among the personnel employed by private security firms were several ex-patients of the St. Ann's Hospital and people who are mentally ill.

10.20 It was distressing to hear that drug pushers were known to come into the St. Ann's Hospital to ply their illicit trade. A well-placed witness mentioned that patients have been seen smoking marijuana and taking cocaine within the hospital. He complained that security at the St. Ann's Hospital is not what it ought to be and that there was a shortage of trained nursing staff.

CONCLUSION—SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

11.1 There is no doubt that Trinidad and Tobago is now faced with a very severe and complex problem of drug abuse. It has been established that the use of illicit drugs is now commonplace in all strata of its society by persons of all ages and of both sexes. Evidence before us disclosed its use by school children, both primary and secondary; teachers; policemen of all ranks; entertainers; magistrates; bankers; businessmen and even Ministers of Government.

11.2 Regrettably, the most recent evidence available to the commission does not indicate any diminution in the use of these substances. It is to be appreciated, however, that there is a likelihood that the habit is now so well ingrained in the populace at large that a very large number of people have a craving for these drugs and that they are under pressure to satisfy this craving even by resorting to crime.

11.3 From the evidence before the Commission, it would appear that a few years ago marijuana was imported in very great quantities, but that this drug has now lost some popularity to cocaine. In fact, one very knowledgeable witness explained the situation thus:

" . . . compressed marijuana, that is what we used to get from Colombia, Brazil—that is dead, nobody buys that. So the market—well, that is what they were throwing out in bales the other day. Compressed marijuana, that is dead really.

What is desirable now for the old marijuana smokers would be local marijuana which is sort of fresh, not compressed, and the connoisseurs will tell you that they prefer the hill marijuana because the water in the flat land appears to affect the quality of the head that they get, having regard to the effect of the water in the plant, so that the mountain marijuana is of greater value and is more in demand.

And there are those people who will not touch coke who smoke marijuana. And I think I have found enough evidence to make the conclusion that young people are beginning to be afraid of coke."

11.4 Nonetheless, marijuana is in fact still imported in significant quantity as is shown in the Customs seizures for 1985, and, of course, in other evidence from various witnesses. Fortunately, the coca plant is not known to be grown in Trinidad and Tobago. It would appear that the advent of its derivative, cocaine, took place at some point in the latter part of the previous decade.

11.5 The Commission is of the opinion that the spread of the use of cocaine has been facilitated by the fact that it is less bulky and so easier to conceal in passage through Customs. Of course, this smallness in size would facilitate its introduction through unauthorised places of entry, and there is much evidence that it is brought here in this way. Another important feature, however, is that while marijuana is of relatively short shelf life, cocaine can be stored for extended periods without any loss of potency, thus making it a better trading product.

11.6 Up to the present, the intravenous use of cocaine is not common in this country. Similarly, the use of hashish, morphine and other addictive drugs is not known to be widespread. However, a complacent attitude must not be adopted for, as given in evidence by medical specialists, the use of cocaine spreads very quickly after its introduction.

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11.7 The Commission is of the opinion that a much greater national effort must be made to reduce the availability of illicit drugs as there is no doubt that the effect of their use has already become a major problem which is taxing the present medical resources of this country beyond their capability. In fact, one medical specialist in his evidence before the Commission made this comment—

“I believe that the major thrust really to stop this is to try and prevent the drugs coming in.”

11.8 Another such witness in referring to efforts to combat the scourge said—

“It is like spinning top in mud to expect to develop facilities and to develop strategies to reduce demand and so on without really clamping down on the availability.”

11.9 From the evidence before it, the Commission noted with great dismay the fact that the importation of these illicit drugs takes place with great facility. There is evidence that at the authorised ports of entry this illegal activity takes place with the assistance of corrupt Customs Officers. Moreover, there is no doubt that this illegal trade is being assisted by some corrupt members of the Police Service who take an active part in their distribution and otherwise assist drug dealers in their unwholesome business. There can be no doubt that members of the Police Service have been recycling seized drugs on to the illegal market. The disgustingly careless method of dealing with drug exhibits has presented dishonest policemen with a convenient source of supply of material for their illegal activity.

11.10 It is very significant that of the 39 witnesses coming before the Commission, not even a single one referred to police activity in any favourable light in mentioning the relevant efforts of that Service. The comment of a visiting medical specialist on police involvement as indicated earlier is of special significance. Indeed, there was much evidence of police participating actively both in the drug trade and in very serious crime. Lamentably, there is not the slightest doubt that many members of the Police Service in every one of its divisions, including some of its most senior personnel are engaged in the illegal drug trade in one way or another. It was mentioned in evidence that very many members of the Service are in the pay of persons who are engaged in the drug trade. From the evidence available, they may receive payment either in the form of cash or in expensive gifts such as costly motor vehicles. It is to be noted too that in this corrupt habit there is evidence that certain policemen are engaged in associated crime such as counterfeiting and probably even murder. Small wonder it is that the police image has sunk to a contemptuously low level.

11.11 The Commission is firmly of the view that the Police Service has not fulfilled its responsibilities in taking the necessary steps in a consistent fashion to come to grips with the problem of drug abuse. The cessation of efforts by trained lecturers on the instruction of the Commissioner of Police can only be described as a most unfortunate decision. Moreover, the subsequent disbandment of the Narcotics Squad which had within it a few personnel specially trained in this sphere, and the assigning of the anti-narcotics function to the multi-purpose Flying Squad whose members had no training in this field, and who demonstrated irresponsibility and gross lack of discipline, can only be described as a Machiavellian strategy on the part of the Commissioner to give drug dealers free rein. With the centralising of the anti-drug effort in the Flying Squad, there was diminution of interest and effort on the part of the remainder of the Police Service in combating this type of crime.

11.12 Despite the foregoing, it is a fact that some members of the Police Service are making valiant efforts to combat this drug traffic, but up to the present it would appear sadly that the odds are against them. The Commission wishes to pay a special tribute to the few members of the Service who have demonstrated their dedication to duty and especially those who have assisted the Commission by testifying before it. The names of these officers have been withheld because of the consideration for the safety of all its witnesses.

11.13 It may be well to mention here, as if in anticipation of future legislation which would provide for the confiscation of the property of convicted drug dealers, some dealers are placing their assets in the name of other people. The Commission was told that Chaitram Gayah already put his money on his father's name. One witness said—

“Gayah tell me that all the money that he has and what he does be making, his account is very small, but he does put things on his father's name.”

11.14 The school system leaves very much to be desired in that very many students appear to be given a type of education for which they are not prepared and which seems to hold out to them little hope of successfully achieving a livelihood. In these circumstances, involvement in the illegal use of drugs may assume an attractiveness which it need not have, and where their mentors are using illegal drugs, it is reasonable to copy their example. The use of illegal drugs by school children is now very commonplace. One witness familiar with the situation at the Toco Composite School addressed the Commission thus:

"The children run away from the school. The school children don't deny it. They tell you that when they want their drugs they know where to get it."

Commission: "But how could school children afford it?"

"Yes, I want to know how they approach these children."

Witness: "This guy who spoke to the Church leader said that he would even give it away to the children."

Commission: "Give it to them?"

Witness: "I think the idea is, you give it away so that when they get the taste for it they would pay anything for it."

11.15 The following bit of evidence discloses the tragedy of having unstable teachers in charge of impressionable youngsters. In this connection, one witness informed the Commission that on one occasion in 1984, the Vice-Principal of the Toco Composite School was absent from school when he ought to have been there to open it and present the papers for an important competitive Mathematics examination in either GCE or CXC. The Commission was informed that this teacher was later known to have been drunk at the seaside at the time of the examination.

11.16 The Commission is aware that the Ministry of Education is making all efforts to counter the use of drugs within its schools, but as already mentioned, greater care must be taken in the selection of teachers and Guidance Officers in particular. It may be well to mention here that while efforts are being made to guide, to improve the conduct of the children, attention must also be paid to the conduct of their parents, as not only is there evidence that parents grow and use the drugs, but that some parents even have their children assist them in the sale of illegal drugs.

11.17 Similar attention must also be paid to the selection of staff for the Government Education Unit as one witness gave in evidence that when invited to give a cinema show on Alcohol and Drugs, the person sent by the Health Education Office on Wrightson Road to give a talk at Toco on the subject was drunk and created such a bad impression that the members of the audience left in disgust.

11.18 An appalling example of indiscipline came to the attention of the Commission when a witness described an incident in which, at ten o'clock one night, a policeman from Toco Station drove a jeep with 5 stranded school children to a Convent in the district and demanded that one of the nuns should drive the children to their homes in Matelot.

11.19 It was also brought to the attention of the Commission that many very senior members of the Service are involved in offering protection to the bankers for a regular financial consideration. Moreover, there have been hints at indulgence in homosexuality. The Commission is of the view that these practices are extremely bad for discipline. Moreover, these seniors have lost the moral authority to command the respect of their juniors and are hardly in any position to take action against them for any involvement in the drug traffic.

11.20 With respect to the effect of the drug trade upon the Nation's economy, it is quite clear that very considerable sums of money leave the country. In the first place, much valuable U.S. currency is used for the payment locally for illegal drugs imported into the country. Secondly, considerable local funds are used in the purchase of U.S. currency for the payment abroad of illegal drugs to be later brought into the country. Thirdly, considerable sums—local funds—are used in the purchase of U.S. currency locally for subsequent purchase of counterfeit U.S. currency abroad, which is later brought into the country for payment to unsuspecting drug dealers in drugs or for use on the open market. In any event, because of the enormity of the trade, it is clear that the economy has been and continues to be very severely eroded.

11.21 In addition to all this, there is much evidence that firearms have been illegally brought into the country by and for persons engaged in the illegal drug traffic, and it is also clear that these weapons have been used in many violent crimes which have taken or continue to take place in the country.

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11.22 Alas, there is no doubt that Trinidad has become a point of trans-shipment for illegal drugs, in particular cocaine which, having arrived here from Venezuela and Colombia, is sent on to New York, Miami, Barbados, and other points of the Caribbean.

11.23 The Commission noted that at least one witness mentioned that the export of illegal drugs to the United States was a blow being made by the Third World on the "Imperialists". Having regard to the undoubted havoc which the illegal use of drugs is causing upon the population, not only of the United States but of other developed countries, it is worthy of consideration that the export of this product from Third World countries may, in fact, be viewed as having potential political significance.

11.24 Finally, the Commission is of the opinion that the problem is now so great that not only must Government take very serious steps to combat the most extensive problem as demonstrated, but members of the public and public organizations must play their part in fighting the menace. The Commission notes the recent growth in public awareness of the situation although this is to a limited extent, and hopes that this is an indication of public willingness through a sense of responsibility to assist Government in its endeavours. The Commission now wishes in the succeeding section to make its recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 In making its recommendations the Commissioners dealt closely with the evidence before it but in addition drew upon their individual experience and expertise in submitting proposals to cope with the problem.

12.2 The Commissioners have read the "Report on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention—A Proposed Plan of Action", which was submitted to the Minister of Health in June 1985, under the chairmanship of Dr. Peter Lewis. We note that, that report has since had Cabinet approval. One of our Commissioners was consulted in the production of that report and we had the opportunity of seeing it before it was presented. We endorse its recommendations with minor amendments and attach them to the present report as an appendix. We shall not reiterate all the recommendations contained in the Lewis Report but shall add to them, where necessary, with particular attention to the criminal and forensic aspects not covered in that report.

GENERAL

- | | <i>Category</i> |
|---|-----------------|
| 12.3 (a) Having regard to the enormity and complexity of the problem, the Commission is firmly of the view that a specific body must be charged with overseeing and co-ordinating a NATIONAL PROGRAMME to counter drug abuse. | Immediate |
| (b) While this recommendation has been made in the Lewis Report, and which this Commission supports in general, we now recommend specifically that the large Committee recommended in that Report be made to function in an advisory capacity to the National Overseeing/Co-ordinating Committee now recommended. | Immediate |
| It is further recommended that this proposed National Overseeing/Co-ordinating body be much smaller in number so as to facilitate its decision-making. | Immediate |
| (d) It is further recommended that this National body be directly responsible to the Prime Minister as its decisions would require the ongoing cooperation of several Ministries which would play specific roles in the national programme. | Immediate |

DUTIES

12.4 The duties of the Co-ordinating Agency would be:

- (1) To recommend Government Policy on Alcohol and Drugs.
- (2) To co-ordinate and monitor all programmes to minimise the ill-effects of alcohol and drugs.
- (3) To ensure the implementation of the nation's responsibilities as a signatory to the two (2) main international drug treaties:—The Single-Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 with their subsequent amendments.
- (4) To ensure that effective data gathering and surveillance systems be developed to guide prevention efforts and to monitor all substance abuse problems.
- (5) To monitor and co-ordinate the work of the voluntary agencies at work in the community so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and ensure maximum use of resources.
- (6) To ensure adequate manpower development and training.

12.5 The Commission unhesitatingly recommends that urgent steps must be taken to restore the effectiveness of the major law enforcement agency—The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Several relevant recommendations follow in this listing but, in the opinion of the Commission, there is absolutely no doubt that there is need for the exercise of much greater care in the selection of persons for appointment to the higher echelons of this Service.

The evidence has disclosed that it is common knowledge that corruption and indiscipline are widespread within that organization resulting in its very poor public image. It cannot be overstated that leadership without integrity must result in futility.

12.6 The Commission urges that necessary steps be taken to launch the early intervention programmes as recommended in the Lewis Report under reference. This would have the effect of identifying at an early stage persons in need of assistance as it is evident that many a person afflicted with a drug-induced illness is unable to appreciate the dangers of his particular affliction and the need for assistance available to him. For this purpose Employer assistance programmes, Family counselling programmes and Court programmes as mentioned in the Lewis Report are of particular significance.

It is recommended that Government implement as soon as possible the Resolution of the Prime Minister's Consultation on Productivity in 1982 "that all employers of labour in both the Private and Public sectors should seek to create Employee Counselling Services or Employee Assistance Programmes aimed at the early identification of problems in their workers and at providing human services especially in the areas of alcohol and drug problems".

We further recommend that collaboration be sought with the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems in devising such programmes.

12.7 The need for drastic revision of the disciplinary procedure in the Police Service is most obvious. The Commission is aware that this has been a matter dealt with by the Bruce Committee and accordingly, supports the recommendations of that Committee with respect to proposed disciplinary reform.

12.8 Furthermore, the Commission is of the view that all members of the Second Division of the Police Service ought to be enlisted for specific periods, for example, five (5) years, and provided with the option, not the right, of renewal for successive periods until the rank of Inspector or age of retirement is reached, whichever is earlier.

INTERNAL FACTOR

12.9 Strengthening of Narcotic Squad not only in numbers but by increased training to make all its members equal to their responsibilities.

12.10 Provision of adequate storage facilities and procedures for safe custody of drug exhibits.

12.11 Provision of greater autonomy, where feasible, for the Narcotic Squad whilst still being a constituent part of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; for example, the issue of vehicles under its exclusive control, and separate accommodation.

12.12 The Commission strongly recommends that all members of the notorious "MI5" or "CI5" as named be removed completely from duty within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Their continued presence there can at best be a disincentive to good production by policemen who may wish to work well. Alas, one of these, Inspector Leache, is now acting as an Assistant Superintendent! Special mention must be made here of both Commissioner Burroughs and Assistant Superintendent R. Pierre as both have done much disservice to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service in the opinion of the Commission that it is difficult to recommend lesser remedial action.

Category
Immediate

Short Term

Short Term

Short Term

Category

Reference
Paragraph
4.3

Paragraphs
4.11, 4.12,
4.13, 4.14

Paragraphs
4.4, 4.5,
4.6, 4.7

Paragraph
4.8

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12.13 The Commission is of the view that these policemen, and the others mentioned at pages 26, 30 and 31 of this Report ought to be assigned to fulltime duty guarding Post Offices (64 in Trinidad and 5 in Tobago). In this way, each of these policemen and the lone policewoman named, would be removed indefinitely from normal duty within the Service. At the same time, a corresponding number of members of the Special Reserve Police (SRP) engaged in temporary whole-time duty for this purpose, may be made to do general police duties at the various police stations instead. Steps may be taken to have investigations conducted with a view to instituting disciplinary process against the various policemen and the policewoman. If these persons are cleared by any resulting disciplinary process they may then be considered for return to normal routine duties. However, it is likely that many may resign of their own volition during their period of Post Office guard duty.

Reference *Category*
Paragraphs
4.8, 4.21

12.14 The Police Service ought to be equipped with at least a dozen dogs trained to detect the presence of illegal drugs. It is desirable that such dogs, with their handlers, be allocated for duty at ports, in particular Piarco Airport, in addition to their normal police role.

12.15 Steps ought to be taken to introduce measures whereby any member of the Police Service, and probably the Public Service as well, to account for any or all of his/her assets—the Commission is mindful here of members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service such as Inspector Steele.

Paragraph
4.29

EXTERNAL FACTOR

12.16 Immigration, Customs and Security personnel to give special attention to arrivals from Colombia and Venezuela at authorised ports of entry.

Paragraphs *Immediate*
5.1, 5.3,
5.8

12.17 (a) Coast Guard, including its Air Wing, Police Service (Marine Division), Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance, Immigration and Air Divisions of the Ministry of National Security to be required to develop and maintain a joint coastal patrol capability whereby the entire offshore of the country (Trinidad and Tobago) is patrolled at least once in every 24 hours with the objective of detecting, reporting the presence of, intercepting and searching all vessels in the territorial waters of this country for the purpose of seizing all supplies of illegal drugs on such craft. It is further recommended that their patrols be extended in particular during the periods from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. It is recommended further that the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard be the co-ordinator of this programme and that he submit periodic reports on its progress as required to the proposed National Agency co-ordinating the national anti-illegal drug campaign.

Paragraphs *Short Term*
5.2, 5.3,
5.4, 5.11,
5.15

(b) The Commission recommends that this interception and search be directed towards all small craft, both foreign and local, pleasure and business (fishing), which, because of their small size, may easily put in unnoticed at secluded places.

	<i>Category</i>
12.25 Institution of a full inventory of all weapons on issue to the Police Service with their exact disposition ascertained by the person making the check.	Immediate
12.26 Stricter control of the use of police vehicles so that their whereabouts and use may be accounted for at all times.	Immediate
12.27 Introduction of a system whereby all members of the Police Service be subject to random medical examination of their urine and other body fluids as a condition of their jobs. These examinations should be done by a mobile team from the Forensic Centre, with the Ministry of Health, and should not be subject to the orders of the Commissioner as it would be contra-productive to have any warnings given.	Long Term

ILLEGAL IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS/VIOLENT CRIME/COUNTERFEITING

	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Category</i>
12.28 Penalty for illegal possession of firearms to be imprisonment for stipulated period.	Paragraphs 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7	Short Term
12.29 Police to launch special programmes, including offers of financial reward, for recovery of unlicensed firearms and illegal drugs.	—	Immediate
12.30 Special Customs effort to seize boats with undeclared cargoes.	Paragraph 7.6	Immediate
12.31 Customs officials at Piarco Airport to make x-ray inspections, where possible, of cargo to discern the illicit presence of firearms, drugs or counterfeit currency, etc.	Paragraph 7.18	Short Term
12.32 Appropriate U.S. authorities to inform of Gayah's alleged bank account in Miami.	Paragraph 7.25	Immediate

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

12.33 Improvement of recreational provisions in rural areas:

The Commission recognises the present financial constraints but advocates an increase in concerts and film shows at all Community Centres. The bands of the Police Service, Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, Prison Service, Fire Service and Orphanages ought to be required to give a certain minimum number of public performances monthly at these Centres. Similarly, the Government Film Unit make a very much increased number of public showings at these locations. The Ministry of Community Development may develop and co-ordinate these efforts and provide small financial grants to each contributing service as may be necessary.

12.34 In similar vein, the re-introduction or extension of a Mobile Library Service is recommended. Short Term

12.35 It is also recommended that assistance be given agencies engaged in developing/implementing strategies to counter the attractiveness of false benefits of the production of marijuana.

12.36 While the Commission can offer no effective counter for the problem of prostitution, it advocates tighter immigration control of suspect female visitors.

EDUCATION

Category

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| 12.37 | Provision of greater emphasis on the development of an improved Primary School system. | Long Term |
| 12.38 | Greater care in the selection of teachers and follow-up monitoring of their performance. | Short Term |
| 12.39 | Introduction, when feasible, of new school programmes more relevant to job opportunities likely to be available to school leavers. | Short Term |
| 12.40 | Provision of drug awareness guidance to Parent/Teachers Associations. | Short Term |
| 12.41 | Principals to be more strongly encouraged to report all drugs-related incidents to the Ministry of Education so as to enable the Ministry to be better aware of the problem and to cope with it. | Immediate |
| 12.42 | Development of an adequate corps of Guidance Officers with greater care in the selection and training of these persons. | Long Term |
| 12.43 | Development of various strategies to reduce the demand for drugs as set out hereunder: | |

DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGIES

EDUCATION I

(a) Schools

Evidence heard by the Commission indicated a need for reform of the School system and especially for the better selection of teachers and for the introduction of programmes aimed at prevention of drug abuse integrated into the regular curriculum.

It is important to emphasise that this does *not* mean the pushing of information about drugs. If anything, that type of programme leads to an increase of drug use.

The goal of such education should be a healthy lifestyle resulting in improved mental and physical health. Alternatives to drug use must be provided in recreational pursuits and the teaching of skills.

Most important should be *selection of teachers* who will be good role models, for learning is more by imitation than by precept. A teacher who drinks or smokes excessively or uses drugs cannot teach a healthy lifestyle.

School based programmes should aim to enhance *self-esteem* and *effective development*:

- Should aim at improving *communication skills* and should include skill-building exercises also for teachers and youth leaders.
- Should develop problem-solving and conflict-resolution techniques.
- Improve school climate and classroom discipline.
- Teach skills that prepare the student for the job market.
- Both individual and group counselling programmes should be provided as well as *Peer*

Counselling programmes which have been shown elsewhere to have been a most effective method of reaching the young.

Ideally, schools should be taught to develop a "problem solving" approach to their own school problems rather than apply preconceived plans. This means developing a team approach along the lines of the "School Team Approach" developed by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Programme in the United States Department of Education.

EDUCATION II

(b) The Community

Raising the level of Community awareness through public meetings, media programmes and campaigns should be an essential component of any Demand Reduction Strategy. However, this may prove to be a two-edged sword if not properly conducted.

A most effective method can be the mobilisation of parents and other concerned citizens to devise their own solutions to their local problems as they perceive them. Examples of such programmes are the Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE), pioneered by Mrs. Nancy Reagan in the United States and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

The New Life Ministries have already been using some of these techniques in Trinidad and Tobago developing local community groups for self education and self help. These efforts have been helped by the fact that there already existed in the community a large number of persons who had previously been trained at the Summer programmes of the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and other Drug Problems (CARIAD). While the New Life Ministries have made use of a number of these people they have sometimes used as group leaders or put on television as educators, others with no expertise or with alleged expertise, who have sometimes given misleading messages creating alarm and panic which could be counter-productive.

The method of community mobilisation and self education is a valid one but it is important that the helpers be helped by the provision of accurate information and the opportunity for training. Some training has now been started by the College of Allied Health Sciences under NIHERST and other groups such as the Caribbean Action Group (CAG) are coming forward to offer training. It is important that persons who teach in these programmes should themselves have a suitable background of experience and expertise.

The most valuable resource to date for training the trainers is the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems which was started in 1974 and began its training in 1975 for just this purpose. A programme of training seminars entitled "Helping the Helpers to Help" is now being conducted by the Caribbean Institute and the first Trinidad module of these trainer of trainers seminars was held in January at the Mt. Hope Complex in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the University of the West Indies, the Trinidad and Tobago National Council on Alcoholism and other Drug Problems.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that all training efforts be co-ordinated by one organisation and that a trainer of trainers strategy be pursued making maximum use of the existing resources including the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems, NIHERST, the University of the West Indies and the Health Education Unit of the Ministry of Health. All such efforts should be co-ordinated by the National Co-ordinating Agency recommended in this report.

THE CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE

The Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems was created in 1974 in response to the need for such training expressed in the resolution of the 1974 meeting of Ministers responsible for Health in the Caribbean. The Institute conducts an annual Basic two (2) weeks training course in Addiction Studies at the College of the Virgin Islands to which participants come from every part of the region. To date over 700 persons have been trained of whom nearly one-third are from Trinidad and Tobago. The school is a co-operative venture assisted by PAHO, the College of the Virgin Islands, the Government of the Virgin Islands, Caricom Countries and Private Donors and is run by a small office in Trinidad. Professor Beaubrun serves as Director of the Multi-disciplinary international faculty.

In addition to the Basic Summer Programme the Institute has been holding specialised workshop for advanced training in counselling, Employee Assistance Programmes (E.A.P.), Epidemiology and other topics. Some of these workshops are now being held in territories other than the Virgin Islands and in January 1986 a Counselling Workshop was held in Trinidad at the Mt. Hope Medical Complex as a co-operative undertaking with the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health and Environment, the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems and the Trinidad and Tobago National Council on Alcoholism and Other Addictions.

We recommend that this co-operation between the Trinidad and Tobago Government and the Caribbean Institute be continued and further developed in meeting the training needs for delivery of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programmes.

HEALTH

Category

- 12.44 Alcohol Treatment Centre at St. Ann's Hospital to be equipped to provide for hospitalization of female patients. Short Term
- 12.45 Acceleration of efforts to renovate/improve deficient physical facilities at St. Ann's Hospital. Immediate
- 12.46 Provision of Halfway houses. Long Term
- 12.47 Retraining of staff, where necessary, and increasing staff complement to a level adequate to the demand for specialist care of cocaine addicts. Long Term
- 12.48 Introduction of adequate recording system for drug-related illnesses. Immediate
- 12.49 Introduction of psychiatric screening of all entrants to Supplemental Police Units and, of course, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Special Reserve Police Service and also the Defence Force. Long Term
- 12.50 Improvement of security arrangements to deny access by persons in possession of illegal drugs to the St. Ann's Hospital or similar institutions. Immediate

LEGAL

12.51 The Commission notes with interest that consideration has been given to its relevant comments contained in its Interim Report by Act No. 37 of 1985 cited as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control Act.

However, the Commission wishes to make the following further recommendations:

- (1) Institution of special Drug Courts at Port-of-Spain and San Fernando to facilitate the early hearing by trustworthy magistrates of charges for the possession of illegal drugs.
- (2) Removal of right to bail in instances where charges are laid for the illegal possession of drugs or firearms.
- (3) Penalty for illegal possession of narcotics or firearms to be mandatory imprisonment.
- (4) With respect to Sections [N(1)a] and [N(3)a] of Narcotics Act 37/85, the discretion of the magistrate in passing sentence to be restricted by the provision of minimum fine of \$5,000.00.
- (5) The Drug Trafficking Offences Bill of the United Kingdom published on 31st January, 1986, by order of the House of Commons, is to make provision for the recovery of the proceeds of drug trafficking and other provisions in connection with drug trafficking, and the Commission considers this Bill worthy of examination by the Ministry for Legal Affairs.
- (6) Urgent consideration be given to effecting legislation, to include under the list of narcotic drugs, the so-called "designer drugs" which are being invented daily in the U.S.