

What Henry Kissinger doesn't want you to know about Communist China

The following is excerpted from an appendix in a newly revised third edition of the bestseller Dope, Inc.—Boston Brahmins and Soviet Commissars, which is scheduled for release sometime this year.

The cover-up of the role of the People's Republic of China in producing and trafficking drugs to the West is one of the biggest lies perpetrated by a U.S. government, in this case by successive American administrations, over the last two decades. The success of this coverup far exceeds even that of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Whereas over 80% of the American population believes the Warren report is a fabrication, the issue of the P.R.C.'s poisoning of American veins and minds with drugs appears to have been buried forever. As of the early 1980s, the Drug Enforcement Administration had no files on the P.R.C. at all!

Not only did the P.R.C. never stop growing and trafficking in opium—and there is no evidence to suggest that Beijing did stop—but in the 1980s, the resurgence of the Golden Triangle drug flow to the West, surpassing the heydays of the Vietnam War, shows that Beijing is on a new drug offensive.

Corroborated reports indicate that today the P.R.C. is the world's largest opium producer. According to Hong Kong reports, the P.R.C. is producing 800 metric tons of opium per year. This is the same as the record high of 800 tons produced annually in the entire region during the height of the Vietnam War, when Chinese drug trafficking was an open matter of Chinese war strategy. Before 1972, it was well-known that the P.R.C. produced 65% of the world's opium. The Hong Kong-based *Liberation Monthly* reported in December 1989 that the P.R.C. today provides 80% of the high-quality heroin selling on the international market.

The censorship on Chinese drug trafficking, however, is so complete that details of the P.R.C. dope trade rarely see the light of day. An article in the May 16, 1975 issue of the *San Jose Mercury* explained why: "A secret federal report, the *Mercury* has learned, pinpoints the People's Republic of China as the producer of quantities of heroin that have been detected in the Bay area. The report, completed six months ago, supposedly is being kept under wraps by the federal

government for fear its release could affect detente between the U.S. and China."

Contrary to the P.R.C.'s own propaganda, drug trafficking is not the business of independent criminals, but is a prime earner of foreign exchange and is directed by a state monopoly controlled by some of the top dogs of the Communist hierarchy. P.R.C. leaders' occasional reports that the mainland is becoming a "transshipment point" for Golden Triangle drugs are to be laughed at as crude coverup attempts. For example, in October 1989, Liu Wen, director of criminal investigation in the Ministry of Public Security, acknowledged to an Interpol conference that farmers "have been found" growing opium poppies in the southeast border areas. Liu blamed an increasing mainland addiction problem on the P.R.C.'s increasing contact with foreigners. In July 1988, the *Beijing Review* reported that "A few people in the southwest border areas [Golden Triangle country] have adopted the habit of smoking opium." All 43 traffickers arrested in the P.R.C. since 1986, the *Review* claimed, were of foreign nationalities.

The China dope is smuggled out into the world labeled either as "Burmese," "Pakistani," or "Afghan." As the Dec. 19, 1985, French journal *Vendredi, Samedi, Dimanche* noted, the P.R.C. drug trade "does not work in a clandestine way. One of the centers of this Chinese connection is the extreme-western part of China near Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union. The reporter arrived in a city called Kashi where the ethnic minority called the Uygurs are controlling the drug traffic toward Pakistan." The city is reportedly filled with Pakistanis.

Communist Quaaludes for America

It is on the public record, but certainly not in the public conscience, that the P.R.C. is the world's major supplier of the illegal drug Quaalude. This came to light in a June 30, 1982 article in the *Washington Post*, which reported that China legally exports the drug to brokers in West Germany. Some 10% of that shipped is used for legitimate medicinal purposes. The remainder—that is, the bulk of what the P.R.C. produces—is dispatched through West Germany to drug-trafficking networks in Mexico, Colombia, and Canada for re-shipment to the United States. The *Post* article quotes then-Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) that the P.R.C. "now pro-

duces about 100% of the methaqualone [generic name for Quaalude] illegally used in the U.S.” That trade is estimated to reap \$2 billion annually.

Other sources of illegal Quaalude—West Germany, Austria, and Hungary—cut down their Quaalude trade, since the supply many times exceeded the medicinal demand. The P.R.C. regime, however, has refused to cooperate with efforts to dry up the supply. In an admission of Beijing’s determination to use any means to acquire foreign exchange while subverting the West, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman told reporters in June 1982, when the scandal briefly flared up, that “China’s sale of a certain amount of methaqualone as medicine through normal trade channels fully conforms to international practice.”

In 1982, Quaalude was listed by U.S. drug officials as the major cause of deaths, injuries, and mental trauma in 13 major U.S. cities, especially among teenagers. In 1984, P.R.C. Quaalude production again came to light with the report of the U.S. House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, which stated: “Methaqualone . . . has mostly been smuggled from Colombia, where it is formulated into tablets from methaqualone powder originating in the People’s Republic of China and Hungary and surreptitiously shipped to Colombia from the Free Port of Hamburg.”

The Quaalude case conclusively proves that P.R.C. interest in drug trafficking did not end with the end of the Vietnam War, the end of the Cultural Revolution, nor the death of madman Mao Zedong. It continues to be the policy of China’s “reformist” leadership under Kissinger crony Deng Xiaoping.

The Kissinger coverup

It was Henry Kissinger who clamped down on any discussion in the West of the Chinese Communists’ role in global drug trafficking. Although it was widely known, and of course admitted, by Beijing’s leaders that the P.R.C. had produced and trafficked dope to American GIs in Vietnam, by the end of the Nixon administration Kissinger had squelched all mention of the P.R.C. as a drug source, in the interests of his new “China card” policy for a Washington-Beijing rapprochement. Kissinger’s effort involved not only protection of the P.R.C. but the subversion of Nixon’s entire 1971 anti-drug crusade.

Nixon’s effort had been skewed from the very beginning. Despite massive evidence that the major source of heroin flowing into the United States came from the Golden Triangle comprised of northern Burma, Thailand, Laos, and the Yunnan Province of the P.R.C., Nixon’s major political focus was the termination of poppy cultivation in Turkey. Soon agreement had been reached with Turkey for crop substitution and other measures to eradicate the poppy crop. The next step was to prepare a “world poppy map” of total opium production. This intelligence was compiled by the Nixon-created Cabinet Committee for International Narcotics Control (CCINC), un-

der the direction of Nelson Gross and Egil Krogh. Gross, with special cooperation from Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, began flying F-4 and SR-71 reconnaissance missions over the Golden Triangle, including sections of the P.R.C. Learning of these operations, Henry Kissinger, from his position as national security adviser, sent out orders to end the reconnaissance flights, on the grounds that they threatened the U.S.-P.R.C. “détente” which Kissinger was trying to effect.

Kissinger stepped in again when Gross ordered U.S. ambassadors in opium-producing countries to draw up an action program against the drug. Gross also proposed that the United States threaten use of its veto and cut-off power in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, to threaten loan freezes against any country refusing to cooperate. Kissinger answered these recommendations in a policy paper countering Gross point by point. In defense of Dope, Inc., Kissinger argued that Gross’s policy 1) would exasperate relations between the U.S. and other countries; 2) could create internal repercussions for allied governments; 3) would be counterproductive to other U.S. security and foreign-policy interests; 4) could not be applied to all nations, could not be applied easily by financial institutions, and would set up situations in which targeted countries could easily call Washington’s bluff.

At several points, Kissinger specifically intervened to protect the P.R.C. against charges that the Communists were the major source of heroin flooding U.S. installations in Vietnam and U.S. cities. In February 1972, to dispel widely circulated rumors of P.R.C. drug trafficking, the “White House” (that is, Kissinger) sent a memo on plain white stationery to selected Republican members of the House of Representatives asserting that “the Government of the People’s Republic of China had for years officially forbidden the private production, consumption, and distribution of opium and its derivatives. There is no reliable evidence that the P.R.C. has either engaged in or sanctioned the illicit export of opium or its derivatives to the Free World nor are there any indications of P.R.C. control over the opium trade of Southeast Asia and adjacent markets”—notwithstanding Chou En-lai’s own confessions.

Since the P.R.C.’s opium production is under state monopoly, the memo’s carefully selected phrases “private production” and “illicit export” tended to arouse more suspicion than they dispelled.

Several months later, Kissinger took further measures with a “White House” memo ostensibly released from drug information director Richard Harkness, and sent to the State, Treasury, and Defense departments. The memo urged cabinet agencies to counter claims that the P.R.C. trafficked in drugs. The memo was leaked to nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, who wrote a May 26, 1972, column bluntly titled “Protecting Peking.” “A White House memo,” Anderson said, “contains evidence that Richard Nixon, once the implacable foe of Communist China, is now defending China”

against charges that it is involved in drug running.

Later, Rep. John Ashbrook (R-Ohio) revealed that Nixon was prepared to raise the question of Beijing's drug trafficking when he visited Beijing, but this was vetoed by Kissinger because "it would have been too explosive in the initial meetings."

In short, the United States entered into its geopolitical alliance with the P.R.C. with the full knowledge that Beijing-produced and -trafficked drugs were being funneled into the veins of American youth, with the profits going back to Beijing. But, just as with the Bush administration's diplomatic embrace of the butchers of Tiananmen Square, the geopolitical relationship with Beijing was considered far more important.

The hoax of the Golden Triangle

As Drug Enforcement Administration sources indicated, the chief Big Lie which Kissinger executed on behalf of Beijing's drug lords, was to order the DEA to redraw the map of the Golden Triangle. Whereas the original map contained the P.R.C.'s Yunnan province—in fact, the southwest section of the province comprised the largest component of the Triangle—Kissinger ordered that the Triangle be inverted so that the apex reached only as far as the Yuannan-Burma border and the base of the Triangle cut a far wider swath across Burma, Thailand, and Laos. Although the original mapping of the Triangle had been based on detailed intelligence reports, at least through the early 1960s, by U.S. Narcotics Commissioner Henry J. Anslinger, the Chinese role was passed over in total silence, without a shred of evidence to indicate any decrease in P.R.C. drug-related activity.

After the end of the Vietnam War, and even more so with the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, the Golden Triangle as a whole largely slipped from the U.S. drug-radar screen.

On Feb. 12, 1988, however, the DEA was forced to re-evaluate when Thai law enforcement authorities seized 1,280 kilograms of heroin in a ship in the port of Bangkok, in one of the biggest drug busts in history. The heroin seized had a street value of \$2.1 billion. All of it was bound for New York City. The amount seized—1.4 tons—exceeded the DEA's estimate of only 1.2 tons of heroin coming into the United States from the Golden Triangle in a single year! Given that any amounts confiscated represent only a small fraction of the actual flow, the DEA estimate of the Golden Triangle flow into the United States was off by anywhere from 50% to 90%.

The bulk of the heroin is derived from opium produced in the P.R.C., and much of that in Yunnan province. The opium is dubbed "Burmese" because it is brought to the outside world through Burma, thanks to the services of the Chinese-backed Burmese Communist Party, the Chinese-backed Kachin Independence Army, and the Shan United Army (SUA) led by the notorious drug lord Khun Sa, a "Shan" of Yunnan-province descent who, it is believed, con-

trols 80% of the Golden Triangle drug flow and who directs opium refineries scattered throughout northern Burma, Thailand, and the Soviet client-state Laos. Khun Sa's ties to Yunnan are close. In October 1989, his top aide, Sakchai Suwannapong, also known as Ma Kuang-ting, was arrested in Hong Kong. A warrant for his arrest was issued on Sept. 20, 1989, by the U.S. District Court of New York. Sakchai had been assigned by Khun Sa to move large amounts of opium and heroin through Thailand, allegedly because of his high-level Thai contacts. But Sakchai also has official ties to the P.R.C.; he is the president of the Chinese Yunnanese Association in Thailand.

Since the early 1980s' successful crackdown by the Thailand government against opium growing, Thailand has become primarily a transshipment point for "Burmese" drugs. Khun Sa claims that the opium is grown in scattered one-hectare plots in Burma along the Yunnan border by hills tribesmen. However, the bulk of opium now moving out of the Triangle would be difficult to produce in Burma alone under such conditions. According to John McBeth of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, in 1979 the normal Burma crop yield was 400-500 tons, producing 40-50 tons of heroin. But in 1979, the crop went down to 200 tons, with half of that, McBeth reported, staying in Burma. This low yield was the result of "tougher enforcement measures, both in northern Thailand and along the Burmese side of the border, [which] have combined . . . to put the squeeze on traffickers and addicts alike."

Since then, however, despite continued pressure in Burma, the "Burmese" yield has steadily risen. In 1981, the crop was 600 tons. In 1986, an estimated 700-1,100 tons were produced; in 1988, the crop was estimated to have climbed to 1,400 tons. In June 1989, Thai Police Maj. Gen. Chavalit Yodmanee predicted that Burma's 1989 harvest would increase to 2,000 tons.

The yield is more than double that of the Vietnam War high of 800 tons. The difference is a vast increase in the Asian drug market itself, with severe heroin addiction problems emerging in Malaysia, Thailand, India, and Pakistan, and a surge in the Western market, as the Bangkok seizure of 1.4 tons of heroin bound for New York attests.

Chinese-Burmese shell game

No matter how much of the "Burma" crop is grown along the northern or southern side of the Burma-P.R.C. border, there is no doubt that the P.R.C. is actively involved in the trade. The connection goes back to 1954-56, when 700,000 Chinese moved into Burma from Yunnan. At the same time, the Maoist regime began cultivating the ethnic groupings of northern Burma, including the Kachins and Shans. In addition, the Chinese controlled the Burmese Communist Party. In 1967, when the Burmese government of Ne Win attempted to challenge the P.R.C. hold on northern Burma by cracking down on the Maoist Red Guard operating in

Burma, Beijing lambasted Ne Win as a “fascist dictator,” a “puppet of U.S. imperialism,” and broke diplomatic relations. Ne Win was forced to back down, acknowledging P.R.C. dominion over northern Burma—and the opium flow. As late as April 4, 1988, the London *Daily Telegraph* reported that the BCP controls large chunks of the opium trade in Burma and that the Communists have “some sort of sanctuary in China which provides them an edge.”

That opium flow—out of Yunnan into and out of Burma—was documented in detail by U.S. Narcotics Commissioner Harry Anslinger. Back in 1953, Anslinger told the Eighth Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, “Despite the efforts of the Burmese government to control the illicit traffic in narcotics, hundreds of tons of cleaned and packaged opium in one-kilogram units are brought into Burma each year from Yunnan province. Routes for the smuggling are through Myitkyina in the Kachin State and through Lashio on the old Burma Road in Northern Shan States. The hub of the traffic on the Yunnan side of the border is Tangyueh. Along the border are found trucks, military vehicles, carts, mules and pack trains used for transporting the opium. About 43 tons of opium are consumed annually in one small area along the Yunnan border, but the amount of opium in the traffic through Burma far surpasses the amount consumed within the country.

“During the year 1953, opium from Yunnan province accounted for almost 100% of the opium seized at some transshipment points.”

Anslinger reported that the big marketplace for the dope was Chiengrai in northern Thailand. “From there the opium reaches Bangkok by boat, truck, rail and plane, and three to four tons can be delivered at any time to a point outside the border at Bangkok in the open sea”—a smuggling practice that continues to this day.

In 1955, Anslinger estimated that the P.R.C. was producing over 1,200 tons, with Yunnan producing 500 tons and another 500 tons leaving the P.R.C. via Canton, adjacent to Hong Kong.

In January 1959, authorities cracked a major drug ring in San Francisco whose operation indicated the extensive P.R.C. use of overseas Chinese to market the mainland’s heroin. A total of 21 Chinese conspirators were found to be in the ring, with 12 of them residing in Hong Kong, Macao, and Shanghai, and the rest operating in the United States in secret criminal organizations called the Tongs. Documents seized showed that the heroin originated in Deng Xiaoping’s Szechuan province, and was smuggled into the United States via Hong Kong. Except for the source tag on the heroin, nothing has changed in the criminal transfer system since.

Eyewitnesses have come forward in recent years to confirm the Yunnan connection. In June 1984, writes Maj. Gen. Chu Sing-yu (ret.) of the Society for Strategic Studies of the Republic of China, a Miss Chang Yu-mu left Yunnan for Taiwan and reported that the local Yunnan authorities had

assigned 36 People’s Communes of Haimung Haien to grow opium. In 1982, she said, Communist cadres were sent into the zone controlled by the Burmese Communist Party to buy opium and better seeds. The BCP is a satrap of the mainland, a relationship so close that in 1973 the BCP formed with Beijing the “Chinese-Burmese Communist Composite Force” joining the BCP’s Northeast Military District and the Kunming Military District. The expansion of opium production and profit-splitting from it became an integral part of the relationship in 1976, according to Wang Kang, a Chinese Communist who was sent into the BCP zones as a “special product transportation officer” in the 1980s and then escaped into Thailand in 1984. Reports that Beijing has decreased its official financial support for BCP signifies only that the gross profits from expanded opium trade in the 1980s have rendered such official support unnecessary.

The opium produced under the aegis of the BCP is then brokered to Khun Sa, who oversees its refining into heroin and negotiates the deals for its transshipment through organized crime gangs.

Behind the gang wars in Chinatown

Once transported by Khun Sa into Thailand, the heroin is taxed by Yunnanese-origin Chinese based in Chiang Mai, who also provide security. Then, at least up to 1979, the Chao Chou Chinese buy and export it. However, in the late 1980s, with the expansion of the Golden Triangle heroin trade, there is evidence that suggests Beijing moved to take over for itself this latter leg of the heroin trade route. In 1984, gang warfare broke out in Amsterdam, the hub for the distribution of Golden Triangle dope for Western Europe. Amsterdam’s flow has been controlled by various Chinese ethnic groups led by the Hong Kong-based 24,000-member 14K. In 1984, dead bodies started appearing when the “Big Circle” gang began challenging the 14K. The Big Circle is comprised of recent immigrants from the mainland—whose direct ties to Beijing are undoubtedly clear.

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* reported at the same time that the “narcotics agencies say that there is evidence that some of these Yunnanese middlemen are now seeking to strengthen their international connections with the aim of cutting out the Chao Zhou syndicates.”

This is further corroborated by source reports that since 1985, a major reorganization of Chinese organized crime networks was carried out in New York City. In part, such a reorganization was preparation for the leap in Golden Triangle drug flow to the United States and the expanding role of ethnic-Chinese crime networks in the U.S. drug market. Beijing’s aim is to push out the old Chao Chou management of the drug trade. Over the course of the decade, the P.R.C. lost its trust in the Chao Chou, since the overseas Chinese tended increasingly to reinvest their drug funds in legitimate ventures in their resident countries, instead of sending it all back to Beijing. . . .