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Operation Blackjack

The overall objective of this operation was to document the existence of a situation which was resulting in the diversion of the amphetamine product Biphettamine (Bifetamine) produced by the Strassenburgh Prescription Products Division of the Tennant Corporation and to take decisive action to eliminate the source of the diversion from the illicit drug traffic in the United States.

Before action could be taken to eliminate this diversion problem, two factors had to be determined, (1) whether the diversion was occurring from domestic or foreign sources and, (2) the level or extent of diversion. An intelligence survey was conducted during the latter part of August 1971, which consisted of a review of all instances where this particular dosage form of amphetamine was known to have appeared in the illicit traffic. This included INDD cases, significant customs seizures, and purchases and seizures reported to INDD's Laboratory Division for analysis by state and local authorities. At this same time a request was sent to Region #2 to obtain from the Strassenburgh Prescription Products Division, Rochester, New York, information relative to organizational structure, methods of production and shipment, of bulk and finished products, locations of foreign facilities, difference in formulation of Bifetamine produced in the U. S. as compared to that produced outside the U. S., etc. Analysis of the intelligence information collected showed the following:

- (a) All bulk amphetamine resin powder for Biphettamine was produced at Strassenburgh's facility at Rochester, New York.
- (b) The firm had subsidiary facilities outside the U. S. that were receiving this bulk powder for encapsulating at their respective locations, (Columbia, Canada, Argentina, Peru, and the Republic of Mexico) from this location.