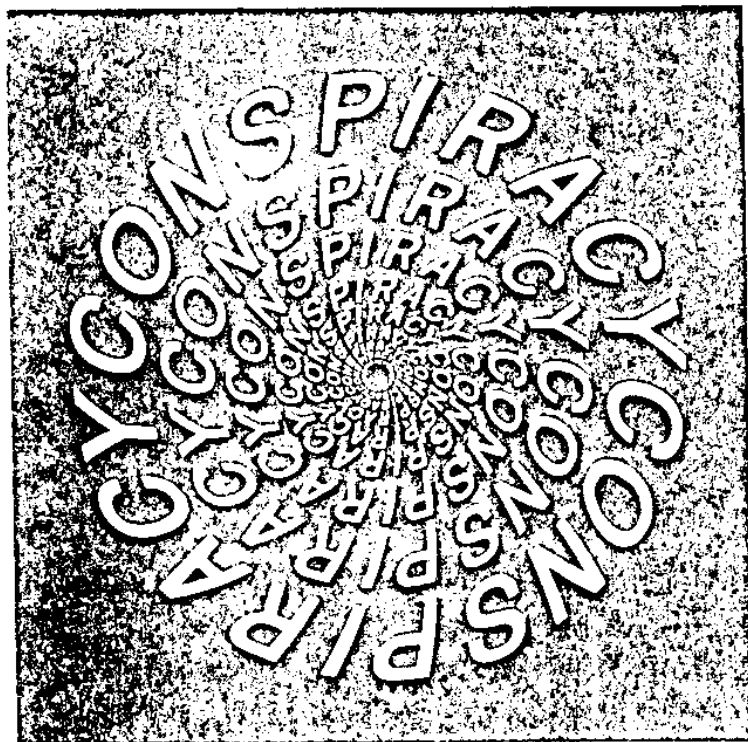


# The New Chinese Connection

In the United States: The Arrest of Far Eastern Traffickers

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Five secret indictments were unsealed recently in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, charging 61 persons, most of them denaturalized Chinese, with conspiring to import and distribute heroin in the United States and Canada. In a coordinated array of arrests that began on November 19, the Drug Enforcement Administration—acting together with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—closed down the most thorough investigation of the Far Eastern narcotics traffic ever conducted in this country. But in doing so they opened up to public inspection a disconcerting prospect: Asian heroin on the horizon.

The cultivation of opium poppies in Asia is not a new phenomenon. Southeast Asia is, in fact, the oldest, and still by far the largest, opium-producing area in the world. According to "World Opium Survey 1972," published by the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control, output of illicit opium in the remote, protected, and almost autonomous highlands of "The Golden Triangle" exceeds that of all other countries in the world combined.

As old as the Asian opium traffic are the traditions of the master traffickers themselves. They are, with few exceptions, Chinese merchants, residing not only in Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Singapore, but in San Francisco, New York, Vancouver, and major cities around the world.