

The officials said it appeared that large quantities of the capsules were sold to a few "farmacias" near the Texas border. Some of these retail outlets appear to be standing almost in open fields in places where there is little population, they said.

From the size and number of seizures of the product in this country, it appears that most of the capsules are then smuggled into the United States, officials of the bureau said. In the investigation, called Operation Blackjack, there have been 80 arrests in connection with the massive drug seizures.

Bifetamina from Mexico was described as the "drug of choice" among users of illicit amphetamine in the Southeast and Southwest.

The stimulant drug may be purchased only on prescription in this country.

One of the persons arrested in this country was a Mexican citizen who was found to be carrying more than 100,000 amphetamine pills and \$82,000 in small bills at the time of his arrest.

Andrew C. Tartaglino, the bureau's deputy director for operations, said that there appeared to be a big illicit distribution network in the South for the drug from Mexico.

Spokesmen for the bureau said that the action against the American drug concern was being taken because there seemed to be so much diversion of the drug into illicit channels.

MUST PRODUCE RECORDS

The Rochester company was served with a subpoena requiring it to provide all records pertaining to exports of amphetamine products from 1969 through 1971, including the proofs given by foreign receivers that the drugs were to be for legitimate medical, scientific, research or industrial purposes.

In late December the company asked for permits to export 800,000 domestically produced amphetamine pills to Italy, 85,000 to the Philippines and 840,000 to Switzerland. An official of the bureau said that the permits would be held up pending a hearing on the order to show why the license should not be revoked.

At the news conference today, Mr. Tartaglino said that the company's bulk exports to Mexico in the last 18 months totaled approximately four-fifths of a ton of amphetamine, enough to fill 45 million Bifetamina capsules.

He estimated that at least 60 to 70 per cent of it is later smuggled back into the United States. No one knows how many amphetamine pills are sold illicitly in the United States in a year. Estimates have ranged from 29 to 50 per cent of domestic production.

At the news conference today, Robert J. Rosthal, deputy chief counsel for the bureau, said that the drug abuse control law that went into effect last May made it difficult for amphetamines to be diverted from legitimate domestic supplies to the illicit market. A drug produced in another country is not subject to the same controls at its source.

The bureau has proposed 1972 production quotas for amphetamines that would be about 40 per cent below the actual production in 1971. An official said that 10 per cent more could be trimmed from the total if Strassenburgh's export license was revoked and its production quota was reduced accordingly.

USED IN RARE AILMENT

It is widely believed that legitimate medical uses of amphetamines could be supplied by a relatively small fraction of the amounts produced in recent years. The drugs are recommended for treatment of a rare disorder called narcolepsy, in which the patient has an overwhelming desire to sleep, and for a type of hyperactivity among children.

The pills are more widely used as a short-term aid to obesity control because they tend to suppress appetite, but specialists have seriously questioned their usefulness for this purpose.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 19, 1972]

PENNWALT DIVISION'S LICENSE TO EXPORT AMPHETAMINE CHALLENGED BY JUSTICE UNIT

WASHINGTON.—The Justice Department ordered a division of Pennwalt Corp. to show cause why its license to export amphetamines shouldn't be revoked.

The department said the order was a result of a 10-month investigation in which it allegedly was found that a patented amphetamine product manufactured