



Narcotics, Organized Crime & Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 13 – 16 December 2004

The following are summaries of articles related to narcotics and security in the Central Asian 5 and Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, the Baltic states. Where possible, web addresses for the entire article are provided.

Shanghai Organization drug tsars meet in Dushanbe

The heads of antidrug agencies from the SCO member states met in Dushanbe on 10 December to discuss cooperation in their drug interdiction efforts. Rustam Nazarov, head of the Tajikistan's DCA, expressed serious concern at Afghanistan's burgeoning opium crop, noting that dozens of heroin-production facilities, each capable of producing 10-20 kilograms of heroin a day, are now located in northeastern Afghanistan. Oleg Kharichkin, deputy head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service told that the Dushanbe forum will produce an agreement that will "open a wide field of activity for conducting operational, investigative, and expert actions on the territory of SCO member states." Kharichkin also noted that Russia "will send liaison officers to Afghanistan to establish contacts and to cooperate with Afghan special services."

<http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/kazakhstan/hypermail/news/0007.shtml>

Allied forces know but do not destroy laboratories in Afghanistan

Nartai Dutbaev, chairman of the Kazakhstan National Security Committee (NSC) stated at the international round table "Cooperation against international terrorism and illicit drug trafficking as a factor to ensure stability in Russia and Kazakhstan" that "we [NSC] know exact locations of laboratories and poppy fields, and we shared that information with the intelligence services of other states".

Gazeta.kz, 13/12/04

Terminator a-la-Uzbek

47 year old man from Namangan region in Uzbekistan assembled a flamethrower from spare parts obtained while working at the gas station. Later on December 11 he tried to use his flamethrower at the Chorsu market (where March blasts took place) against policemen patrolling the market. The unequal 'battle' continued for 20 minutes until the police car hit him from behind... He was making anti-government statements. Office of the general prosecutor stated that he is insane.

Reuters, TRIBUNE-uz, 13/12/04

Putin's secret weapon

In November, Putin stated that "in the nearest future Russia will have the missile-nuclear complexes, which nobody has, and will not have in the nearest future". This intriguing phrase alerted many experts all around the world. It seems that this complex consists of ICBM "UR-100N UTTH, also known as RS – 18 (NATO classifies them as "Stilet". In addition, Russia is developing three missile complexes "Topol-M", "Bulava", and "Iskandar". For example, Topol is a mobile complex and it can carry up to 10 splitting armed parts in its 'head'.

"Voennaya taina Putina raskryta", *Russkiy kur'er*, 15/12/04

Office of the Russian Federal Service to Control Narcotics was attacked in Kabardino-Balkaria

Four officers of the FSN office in Nalchik city, Kabardino-Balkaria have been killed, and the building was put on fire. In addition, 59 Kalashnikovs, 21 "Kedr" machine guns, 173 Makarov pistols and two sniper rifles were stolen. There are several versions on who could do it: 1. by a crime group with a purpose to steal arms; 2. revenge from drug dealers; 3. one more guerilla attack by Chechen warlords.

"Proshai oruzhiye", *Vremya Novostei*, #228, 15/12/04

Junkies are dying in Altai

About 52 drug addicts got poisoned in Rubtsovsk city, Altai region, 6 out of them died. According to the police, the reason is probably an overdose. Allegedly there is a delivery of highly concentrated heroin that was newly brought from Afghanistan.

"Altayskiye narkomany otravilis' geroinom", *CRY.ru*, 15/10/04

Russia reports Afghan heroin rise

The amount of Afghan heroin entering Russia nearly doubled in the first nine months of 2004, according to government figures released in Moscow. Russian police intercepted 2.9 metric tons between January and October compared to 1.4 tons seized during the same period last year. Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev said Russia, a country of about 142m people, now had some 4m drug addicts.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4100145.stm>, 15/12/04

Seizures and Arrests

North Korea envoys 'smuggled drugs'

Turkey has deported two North Korean diplomats accused of smuggling drugs, Turkish officials say. They said the two men - named as Ryang Thae Won and Kim Son Jin - were caught in a police raid in Istanbul. They are alleged to have been in possession of large quantities of Captagon - a synthetic amphetamine-type stimulant. The diplomats - who have immunity - were taken by car to Bulgaria, where they are based. Turkish officials say the diplomats brought the pills from Bulgaria and delivered them to two Turks, who were arrested in the Istanbul raid.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4083977.stm>, 09/12/04

11 kg of heroin were incepted in Kazakhstan from a citizen of Uzbekistan

40 year old citizen of Uzbekistan was caught in Shymkent, Kazakhstan with 11 kgs of heroin in his car. The arrested person revealed that he was carrying heroin to Russia. His car was registered in Uzbekistan, but had forged Kazakhstani number plate.

"Kazakhstane iz'yato 11 kg geroina", *CRY.ru*, 14/12/04

Oresund Bridge is the main entrance port for drugs into Sweden

Amount of drugs coming into the southern part of Sweden is rising. Most of the drugs come from the Baltic states. The biggest amount of drugs is still amphetamine. Police suspects that with EU expansion more drugs will come from the eastern part, Poland, Baltic States and Russia. Oresund bridge has been characterized by the Swedish police as the easiest way to traffic drugs. Heroin is sent to Sweden by post and usually is intercepted at Arlanda airport and customs in Malmö. Lately, most of the opium has been seized in Helsingborg from Denmark.

<http://www.metro.se/metro/?PHPSESSID=d9286cde2c4195aaef07ddd7582ef22>, 16/12/04