

# The drugs hot war — Thai style

More than 1100kg of heroin was among a huge heap of drugs destroyed by the Thai Ministry of Health during the 13th annual 'burn-up' of confiscated narcotics in Bangkok in 1991.

The event is regarded as a symbolic and very practical gesture in the drug war, during which drugs seized are publicly disposed of by burning.

The seizures resulted from the co-operation of a number of Thai Government Departments, including the Office of Narcotics Control Board, the Royal Thai Police and the Excise Department.

The list of narcotic drugs provided by the Food and Drug Administration included 1187.89kg of heroin, 29.88kg of morphine, 74.4kg of opium and 72.4kg of cannabis. Drugs handled through the Office of Narcotic Control Board included 3031kg of cannabis.

Each year, invitations to attend the ceremony are sent to all foreign drug liaison officers stationed in Thailand, including the AFP's Liaison Co-ordinator.

In 1990, 1924kg of narcotic substances seized during the previous 12 months were destroyed in the annual public ceremony.



Top: Tonnes of drugs go up in smoke. Above: Police General Pow Sarasin applies the flame. Below: Spanish LO Mr Luis Pablos and Interpol Drugs LO for SE Asia, Mr Romeo Sanga, watch as the flames rise.

