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Title:

Press statement: Dangerous Drugs Act Amendment Bill

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PRESS STATEMENT: 17/12/70.

FROM: THE CHIEF SECRETARY (MR. SHARD)

SUBJECT: DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Executive Council today approved the Dangerous Drugs Act Amendment Bill which introduces severe penalties for drug pushing, and which also improves the general efficiency of the principal Act.

The Chief Secretary and Minister of Health (Mr. Shard) said that the penalties for drug pushing ^{WERE} ~~had now increased from \$500~~ ^{OF 10} ~~to \$2,000 with the~~ ^{to \$4,000,} maximum term of imprisonment ^A ~~at 2~~ years. ^{OR BOTH.}

He said an important aspect incorporated in the Act now emphasized that rehabilitation of a drug addict was more important than the punishment.

"It accordingly gives the Court power in appropriate cases to impose a suspended sentence of imprisonment on the condition that the defendant undertakes appropriate treatment.

"The Act, which previously extended only to narcotic drugs, now extends to non-narcotic drugs of dependence such as amphetamine stimulants."

Mr. Shard said the Act now incorporated a number of recommendations of the National Standing Committee which had been set up in 1969 with a view to combating the developing drug problem in Australia on a uniform basis.

"The amended Act will come into effect on a date yet to be proclaimed."