

H.K. Standard

27 Jan. 1986

17,000 anti-drug operations last year

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ABOUT 26,500 people were arrested last year in 40,000 territory-wide operations against vice, drugs and illegal gambling, police reported yesterday.

Narcotics Bureau officers seized 219.8 kg of drugs in 418 operations in which 310 arrests were made.

Together with their regional counterparts, a total of 17,000 anti-drug operations were conducted with more than 10,000 people being arrested.

The drugs seized included 227 kg of heroin, 58 kg of opium, 25 kg of cannabis and 7.9 kg of amphetamine.

Nearly 3,000 raids were carried out and 10,900 people arrested. Table money totalling \$1,851,680 and betting slips of \$14,838,000 were seized.

Police mounted 20,000 operations and arrested 3,916 people in their drive against vice. A total of 39,431 copies of objectionable publications and 3,018 pornographic video tapes were seized.

A police spokesman said yesterday that last month alone, 3,361 operations were conducted. On Hongkong Island, 1,023 operations were carried out and 455 people arrested. Kowloon police conducted 1,912 raids with 1,185 arrests and 389 operations were made in the New Territories with 367 people being arrested.

He said 966 people were arrested in 1,424 drug operations and 14.8 kg of No 3 heroin, 7.5 kg of No 4 heroin and 1.6 kg of opium were seized.

Also conducted were 1,701 vice raids during which 290 people were arrested and 127 pornographic video tapes were seized.

Besides, 798 people were arrested and about \$600,000 of table money and betting slips were seized in 236 gambling raids, the police spokesman added.