

Here I can only repeat my solemn entreaty to produce a 'soma', an ideal drug, as no other solution to the drug problem appears to exist. In his Foreword, "Bridges between the two Cultures", to *Interdisciplinary Thoughts* Eric Ashby wrote: "One of the remarkable features of ISR are the brief and lucid Editorials, all written by Michaelis." My drug editorial grew from the usual one or two pages to more than seven pages, as I wrote about the historical use of drugs in the Old and the New World, about narcotics in literature, about stopping prohibition, and Aldous Huxley's mescaline experiments. The only scientific solution to the drug problem which I could offer was the 'Socially Sanctionable Drug', SSD, proposed by Matthew Huxley, the son of Aldous, in ISR Vol. 1, page 176 (1976), here Title 264. This 'ideal drug' would induce euphoria, be pleasantly hallucinogenic, gently alter the state of consciousness without leading to addiction, and fail to produce the other undesirable after-effects of present drugs.

The only aspect of my Drug Editorial of 1990 which has changed in 10 years, is the new traffic route to bring heroin from South East Asia into Western Europe after the War in Bosnia blocked the old Balkan Pipeline. Also South Africa has now become a new center of drug transshipment from South America. In all other aspects the drug problem has remained unchanged, no penalties, however severe, have deterred criminals from trafficking and from synthesising new more potent synthetic varieties. Remedies which have been tried, such as substituting other agricultural products, instead of growing cocoa leaves, opium poppies or Indian hemp, have failed, as the sale of the alternative crops proved financially quite inadequate for the peasant growers.

Manufactured by the pharmaceutical industry, the 'soma' would be released for public consumption under strictly controlled conditions, all specified by Matthew Huxley. It would create huge profits for the industry and high taxes for the State prepared to licence it. But none of the global pharmaceutical company has dared to add to its analgetic research any effort to produce a soma. Are these rich companies, spending world-wide several thousand million dollars on research each year, afraid of ethical opprobrium by the medical profession, or of terrorist attacks by the mafia, losing one of its most profitable trade? Or would the elimination of the life-shortening consequences of drug-addiction through the existence of a soma, not be of profit-making priority in the companies' conventional search for remedies against the traditional diseases?

Unless an enterprising pharmaceutical company produces a soma, the ever-worsening drug problem will continue to spread its world-wide misery for many more years to come.