



UNITED NATIONS

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

UNDER THE CONVENTION OF 13 JULY 1931 FOR LIMITING
THE MANUFACTURE AND REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF
11 DECEMBER 1946

NETHERLANDS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE NETHERLANDS

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith an annual report forwarded to him in pursuance of Article 21 of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946. (For the form of annual reports, see document E/NR.1949/Form)

New York, 1953

A. GENERAL

I. LAWS AND PUBLICATIONS

1.)During the year under review, Order of the Minister of Social Affairs and
2.)Public Health of 21 April 1952, No. 5298 I, Public Health Section, was
)published containing a new list of narcotic drugs and rescinding the Order
)of 8 December 1933, No. 1762 P, Public Health Section, and subsequent
)amending Orders. The Order added the following drugs to the drugs previously
)listed as narcotic drugs:
 -) B-1-methyl-3-ethyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine and its salts;
 -) 3-hydroxy-N-methylmorphinone and its salts.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. a. No changes were made in administrative arrangements. For details of the administration see the Annual Report for 1934.*
 - b. There has been no development of the organization and working of the opium administration.
 - c. No special difficulties were encountered in the application of the Conventions.
2. *Drug addiction*

The report for 1949** gave details on the exchange of information on drug addicts. These also apply to the year under review.
3. The Netherlands have not yet ratified the Convention of 1936.*** The amendments to the laws which ratification will involve have been completed.

III. CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. The system of import certificates and export authorizations has worked satisfactorily.

A consignment of opium being imported into the Netherlands was not accompanied by a foreign export licence. The attention of the competent authorities having been drawn to this fact, the Netherlands import certificate intended for the foreign exporter was returned to the Netherlands authorities, after it had been converted into an export licence by the authorities of the country of export by means of a stamp, dated and signed.

Some difficulties arose in connexion with the import of "Cliradon", due to the fact that this preparation was already subject to the provisions of the Opium Law in the Netherlands, while that was not yet the case in the exporting country; this drug was therefore imported into the Netherlands without the necessary import and export licences. No further difficulties arose, however, after the country concerned had applied the provisions of the international conventions to "Cliradon".

Notice that the Philippines had exceeded its cocaine estimate and the Union of South Africa its morphine and pethidine estimates was received from the Secretary of the Permanent Central Opium Board.

Note by the Secretariat:

* League of Nations document O.C./A.R.1934/31.

** Document E/NR.1949/53.

*** The Convention of 1936 has since been approved by the Act of 18 June 1953.

2. The Office of the Principal Director of Public Health, who is responsible for the issue of import certificates, is at 21, van Speykstraat, The Hague.
3. There have been no modifications in the conditions of issue of import certificates, export authorizations and transit authorizations.
4. Copies of the export authorizations were regularly returned by the importing countries. Abyssinia, Curacao, New Guinea, Spain, Surinam and Venezuela have not yet returned copies of export authorizations issued in 1951.
5. No cases of falsified certificates were reported.
6.)
7.)Nothing to report.
8.)

IV. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. No international conventions or agreements were concluded in the course of the year under review.
2. The Narcotics Sub-Committee set up within the framework of Benelux to provide for the uniform application of laws on narcotic drugs in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands did not meet during the year under review.
3. The Protocol of 11 December 1946 was ratified on 10 March 1948.

V. ILLICIT TRAFFIC

The cases of smuggling which have come to the attention of the Central Service relate chiefly to the two large ports, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, and to the frontier regions of Limburg and Brabant.

Although there has been a certain decrease during the past year in the number of opium seizures and in the quantity seized, that does not necessarily indicate a downward trend in the illicit traffic.

According to a considerable amount of information received by the Central Service, the Chinese and the Chinese crews of ships visiting our ports are in many cases engaged in the illicit traffic in opium. It is of course very difficult to lay hands on smuggled goods.

During the year under review, the total quantity of opium seized was 25 kg as compared with 60 kg in 1951. At the beginning of 1952, the price of opium (on the illicit market) was approximately 15,000 guilders (US \$394.60) per kilogramme, but there was a drop in the price towards the end of the year.

As was stated at the end of last year's report, the Central Service seized, with the collaboration of the Rotterdam police, ten pounds (4.5359 kg) of opium at the beginning of 1952 in a hotel at Rotterdam, just as the opium was about to be sold to an American (who was really an agent of the United States Bureau of Narcotics playing the part of a buyer). The man apprehended was a Chinese member of the crew of the British ship *St. Bernard* which was berthed in Rotterdam and he had hidden the opium in a smuggler's jacket which he wore under his clothes. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment by the Rotterdam police court magistrate.

Another opium seizure was the one on board the tanker *Murena* (which has already been mentioned several times in previous annual reports). A search was made as a result of confidential information that opium had been hidden aboard the vessel. Under a pile of tarpaulins in the fore-peak of the vessel, a sack of jute was discovered containing 18 packets of opium totalling approximately 10 kg. The person accused, a Chinese member of the ship's crew, said that he had bought the opium in a port in the Persian Gulf on behalf of his compatriots in Singapore who had provided the money for the purchase. However, that statement was called in question. It is possible that other members of the crew were involved in this smuggling episode but we cannot find sufficient evidence.

Another seizure at Rotterdam involved 12 pounds (5.4431 kg) of opium discovered by the staff of the Rotterdam-Lloyd Shipping Company in some tarpaulins from the steamship *Sibajak*. This vessel, which normally plies back and forth between the Netherlands and Indonesia, had been chartered for several voyages to Canada for the transport of emigrants. When the ship was transformed, some of the tarpaulins which were not needed were removed and, as the staff of Lloyd in charge of this type of work had been warned by the police that the Chinese sometimes hid their smuggled opium in these tarpaulins, they redoubled their vigilance. The search revealed the presence of twelve cakes of opium, each weighing approximately 1 pound. It was not possible to establish the origin of the opium.

As there were grounds for suspecting that a Chinese member of the crew of the vessel *Tibia* was engaged in opium smuggling, the Amsterdam police conducted a search. The man was found to have hidden two cakes of opium, each weighing 1 pound, in a belt which he wore under his clothing. He stated that he had bought the opium in a port in the Persian Gulf and that he had intended to sell it to some Chinese people at Amsterdam. According to information received subsequently by the Central Service, this man had already sold several kilogrammes of opium to his compatriots at Amsterdam.

He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment by the police court magistrate.

At Rotterdam, the Customs discovered 2 pounds (907.2 g) of opium in one of the lavatories of the tanker *World Liberty* which was flying the Liberian flag. The opium consisted of sticks (of the Iranian type) which were tied up in a hand towel. It was impossible to establish who was the owner of the opium.

There have been very few seizures of prepared opium during the past year. During a general inspection of the buildings occupied by Chinese in Amsterdam, the police arrested a Chinese (the keeper of a boarding house) who had ten small packets of prepared opium in his possession. The same man was also arrested last year for having several small packets of prepared opium in his possession. He stated that he was a drug addict and that he had received the opium which was found on him from a fellow-Chinese whose name he did not know.

Another Chinese was also discovered to be in possession of a few small packets of prepared opium.

There were two seizures of morphine during the year under review. At the beginning of the year, the Central Service learnt that an inhabitant of the commune of Tegelen was suspected of having morphine in his possession. In collaboration with the police, an investigation was started. An official of the Central Service posed as a buyer and it was then possible to arrest the man who had the morphine. He was found to be in possession of a bottle (without any mark or label) containing morphine (in powder form). The bottle was weighed and was found to contain 66 g of pure morphine. The person concerned said that he had received the morphine in 1950 from a dentist living at Kaldenkirchen (in Germany), who had asked him to try to sell it in the Netherlands. The Central Service informed the German police, who continued the investigation in Germany. The dentist was sentenced to a fine of 800 marks (US \$190.40) by the Schöffengericht of Crefeld (Germany). By a judgment of the Ruremonde police court magistrate, the defendant was given a suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment and put on probation for three years.

The second seizure relates to the illicit possession of morphine. As it was suspected that a man named A, who lived at Amsterdam, was in possession of narcotic drugs, the Amsterdam police organized a search. When the police raided A's house, they discovered a case containing a syringe and a small flask of morphine (liquid). The flask contained approximately 30 c.c. The

label bore the following inscription: "Morphine injection, Burroughs Wellcome and Co., London". The person concerned said that the case and its contents had been passed to him by a German in 1944/45 and he had kept it in his house since then.

As regards the traffic in Indian hemp cigarettes, there has been an increase in their use in recent times. It is believed that the traffic in the ports is mainly in the hands of negroes from Surinam. The cigarettes are smuggled in by members of the crews of American ships (also coloured). The traffic in these cigarettes is carried out in various bars in the sailors' quarter at Amsterdam. Nothing can be done to stop this traffic because the possession of Indian hemp cigarettes is not punishable under the Netherlands Opium Act. It is a punishable offence to import these cigarettes, but proof is hardly ever obtainable. On rare occasions during the past year, the Rotterdam Customs made seizures of Indian hemp on board ships, but the persons responsible could never be found. Quite recently 3 pounds (1.3608 kg) of Indian hemp was found in a lavatory on board the South African vessel *Kaapland*. According to the statements of various members of the crew, the Indian hemp had been brought on board at Durban (South Africa). The Central Service passed on the information to the South African police and, when they arrived in South Africa, the suspects were interrogated. It was not, however, possible to procure sufficient evidence.

Apart from the opium referred to above, the Rotterdam Customs also found a quantity of Indian hemp (approximately 1 pound [453.6 g]) in a ventilator on board the American ship *World Liberty*. It was not possible to establish the origin of the drug.

At Rotterdam, police agents searched a sailor (from Surinam) in a café in the Chinese quarter and found three boxes, each containing ten cigarettes made of Indian hemp. The sailor said that he had obtained sixty such cigarettes from a negro whose name he did not know but who was a member of the crew of an English ship. By his own account, he was a heavy smoker of Indian hemp cigarettes and smoked at least twenty or thirty a day.

There were no seizures of cocaine during the year under review. The only sample which was offered as cocaine turned out on analysis to be nothing but soda to which a little table salt had been added.

Apart from opium, morphine and Indian hemp, the police confiscated 6 ampoules of Ommopon at Schiedam. These ampoules were in a small tin box which was washed up by the tide at the "Gusto" shipyard at Schiedam. It was a product manufactured in England (Roche Products Ltd.).

The contact with other countries was excellent. There was a regular exchange of information with the *Bundeskriminalamt* at Hamburg.

In the same way as last year, reports of seizures were received from the Bureau of Narcotics in Washington.

Information was also exchanged with the *Commission internationale de Police criminelle* at Paris regarding international drug smugglers. Regular reports were received from the Commission regarding the seizures of dangerous drugs announced by the various countries.

The close collaboration with the Government public health inspection service was continued. On several occasions, advice was given in connexion with the granting of opium licences. Copies of licences for the import and export of narcotic drugs were received regularly from the head of the General Pharmaceutical Inspection Service.

Several reports on narcotic drugs were received from the United Nations Secretariat through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The campaign against drug smuggling was discussed at the meeting of the *Commission internationale de Police criminelle* held at Stockholm from

9 to 14 June 1952. A resolution was adopted whereby the members undertook to draw the attention of their governments to the vital importance of imposing severe penalties on drug traffickers.

In accordance with the Economic and Social Council resolution adopted on 27 May 1952, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has asked governments to supply the names of the members of crews of merchant ships and civil aircraft who have been convicted of drug smuggling. The Secretariat intends to draw up a list of the names of these persons to be sent to the various governments.

As in previous years, the Central Service maintained regular contact with the officials of the State and municipal police specially assigned to the control of drug smuggling, as well as with the Customs and Excise officials and the Royal Constabulary.

At the request of the public prosecutor at Alkmaar, an official of the Central Service gave a lecture to the members of the State Police in the district of Alkmaar on the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and the campaign against it.

During the year under review, the Central Service learned of certain cases of drug addiction. One of these cases was that of a certain L., a doctor at Amsterdam, who is a known addict. By means of false prescriptions, this doctor was able to procure approximately 15,000 ampoules of Boncodal in less than a year from a chemist's shop at The Hague. The police and the State public health inspector at The Hague instituted an investigation and a warrant was issued against the chemist, since he had failed to observe the regulations (under which no one may supply drugs to a doctor unless he lives in the same district). The chemist's licence for the sale and preparation of opium was withdrawn. A warrant was also issued against the doctor.

At Amsterdam, a drug addict (Miss L., a nurse), who is well known to the Central Service, stole drugs from four chemists' shops. In order to procure the drugs, she would go into a chemist's shop and ask for something which was not on the counter and would have to be fetched from the back of the shop. She would then take the opportunity, while the shop was unsupervised for a moment, to take drugs out of a cupboard or to make off with those which had been prepared to be sent out to customers. The same woman was arrested in 1950 by the Nijmegen police, also for stealing narcotic drugs.

At Amsterdam, a woman (drug addict) tried to obtain prescriptions for drugs from several doctors on various pretexts.

At Ulvenhout, a patient (a drug addict) took twenty small tablets of morphine (totalling approximately 10 g) from a cupboard in a doctor's consulting room while the doctor was out of the room.

Drugs were supplied in five chemists' shops at Maastricht to the wife of a Belgian doctor living at Landen near the Netherlands Belgian frontier. The investigation revealed that the Belgian police were aware that the woman was a drug addict and that she had been ordered to procure the drugs she needed always from the same chemist's shop in Belgium (so that a check could be kept on the amounts she used).

She evaded that obligation by going to procure drugs in Holland (at Maastricht). She was sold a total of 120 ampoules of morphine and 118 ampoules of Deloneurine.

In conclusion, we give below a summary of the narcotic drugs seized during the period under review.

Opium (raw)	22.5 kg
Opium (prepared)	10 g
Morphine (powdered)	66 g

Morphine (liquid)	1 small flask containing 30 c.c.
Omnopon	6 ampoules
Indian hemp	a little over 2 kg.

As in earlier years, there were many rumours during this past year regarding illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. It has again been demonstrated recently, during the inspection of Chinese disembarking from merchant ships, that special supervision is required in the ports. When one of these Chinese saw that a check was being made, he fled and rushed back on board. He was followed by the police. He ran into a cabin and when the police arrived they were just in time to see him with his arm out of the porthole, having presumably just thrown something overboard. It was probably opium, but nothing was found.

Vigilance is therefore clearly needed.

VI. OTHER INFORMATION

Regular contact has been maintained with the Ministries concerned with narcotic drugs.

Regular consultations have taken place with the Government consultant on international opium questions.

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. RAW OPIUM

See Annual Report for the years 1939 - 1945.*

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. INTERNAL CONTROL OF MANUFACTURED DRUGS

1. There has been no change in the internal control system.
2. *Licences*

The system of licences described in the Report for 1934 has been continued.

3. *Manufacture*

- a. Names and addresses of factories manufacturing narcotic drugs:

Nederlandse Cocainefabriek N.V., 553 Heerengracht, Amsterdam.

Verenigde Pharmaceutische Fabrieken N.V., 130 Vlijtseweg, Apeldoorn.

During the year under review the Nederlandse Cocainefabriek N.V. received a licence to manufacture the following drugs: morphine, diacetylmorphine, methylmorphine, ethylmorphine, dihydromorphinone, dihydrocodeinone, dihydro-oxycodinone, acetyldihydrocodeinone, thebaine, cocaine, pethidine, methadone, and their respective salts. With the exception of diacetylmorphine, dihydro-oxycodinone and acetyldihydrocodeinone, all these drugs were manufactured during 1952 for both domestic use and export.

During the year the Verenigde Pharmaceutische Fabrieken N.V. received a licence to manufacture the following products: raw cocaine, ecgonine, morphine, diacetylmorphine, methylmorphine, ethylmorphine, thebaine, dihydromorphinone, dihydrocodeinone, dihydro-oxycodinone, acetyldihydrocodeinone, cocaine, dihydromorphine, and their respective salts and all the opium alkaloids. With the exception of raw cocaine, ecgonine and diacetylmorphine, all these drugs were manufactured in 1952 both for domestic use and for export.

*Note by the Secretariat: See document E/NR.1939-1945/2.

- b. No new drugs were manufactured in the course of the year.
 - c. For details on the inspection of factories and the powers of the Pharmaceutical Directors of the Public Health Department, see Annual Report for 1934.
4. *Trade and distribution*
- a. In 1952 the number of holders of opium licences was:

For scientific purposes and demonstration	49
For trade	50
For trade and preparation	30
For trade, preparation and manufacture	2
 - b. The system described in the report for 1934 has been maintained.
5. *Manufacture and trade in diacetylmorphine*
- a. Two factories are authorized to manufacture diacetylmorphine. This drug was not manufactured during the year under review.
 - b. Diacetylmorphine was exported to Canada and Caracao in 1952.
 - c. Diacetylmorphine is not imported into the Netherlands.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS

- XI. CHAPTER IV OF THE HAGUE OPIUM CONVENTION OF 1912
 There was no export to China in 1952.