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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Ad hoc Committee of the Principal Opium-Producing Countries

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH AND FINAL MEETING

held at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ankara,
on Wednesday, 7 December 1949, at 10 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. Ali TARHAN

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Present:

Members:

India	Mr. YUNUS
Iran	Mr. AMINI
Turkey	Mr. KARABUDA
Yugoslavia	Mr. KUSHEVITCH Mr. NIKOLITCH

Observers:

China	Mr. JEN KI-SIN
France	Mr. SUSINI
Netherlands	Mr. de JONGH
United States of America	Mr. HADRABA

/Also

Also present:

His Excellency Mr. Necmettin SADAK
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Turkey

His Excellency Mr. Kemali BAYIZET
Minister for Hygiene and Social
Welfare of the Republic of Turkey

His Excellency Mr. Firat DICLELI
Minister for Commerce of the
Republic of Turkey

His Excellency Mr. Cavit ORAL
Minister for Agriculture of the
Republic of Turkey

Secretariat:

Mr. Steinig

Representative of the Secretary-
General, Director of the
Division of Narcotic Drugs

Dr. Masar

Division of Narcotic Drugs

Mr. Bolton

Secretary to the Committee

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1. ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. (continued)

Section 14. Press Communiqué

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of representatives to the Press Communiqué prepared by the Secretariat (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.16) and asked whether they had all had an opportunity of studying it. If not, he would cause it to be read out.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) thought that the Committee might dispense with a formal reading. Personally, he thought the Press Communiqué could be adopted forthwith.

The CHAIRMAN observed that, since no other representative had any comment to offer, Section 14 (Press Communiqué) of the Committee's Report could be considered as unanimously adopted.

2. CLOSURE OF SESSION

Declaration by the representative of Iran

Mr. AMINI (Iran) said that, now that the Committee's work had reached its close, he would like briefly but clearly to sum up the views which the Government of Iran had always held on the points discussed by the Committee.

In accordance with the instructions he had received from the Government to reach a constructive result, he had made certain concessions which, he was pleased to record, had enabled the Committee to register a considerable advance along the road to the solution of the opium problem.

The adoption of the proposal to establish an international purchasing and selling agency, the recommendations concerning the standardization of Government opium monopolies, and, finally, the determination of the method of estimating world requirements in opium proved that, working with the object of limiting the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, the Committee had made a great contribution to the suppression of the illicit traffic in opium.

The position of the Government of Iran in respect of the allocation of sales shares was clearly stated in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2, which revealed that the Imperial Government had claimed for Iran a fair share in the distribution of the world requirements for medical and scientific purposes, in order to emphasize the place occupied by his country as a large producer and exporter of opium.

It had consequently been difficult for the Government to accept any basis for the allocation of export quotas to each producing country, other than the basis proposed by it, especially in view of the fact that the

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economic situation of his country was somewhat precarious, and of the difficulties of a general nature which were compelling it to make heavy sacrifices.

However, moved as always by a sincere desire to remove the danger of the improper use of opium, the Government of Iran had agreed to make a great concession by accepting a new basis for the allocation, which had enabled the Committee to reach agreement on that important point. It was therefore a great satisfaction to him to emphasize the efforts made by the Government to enable the Committee to record success.

It was to be hoped that in the future the joint efforts of the countries concerned together with the assistance, both moral and material, of the United States of America, whose encouragement and support to all countries of good will had not flagged for more than fifty years, would enable producing countries to cope with the technical and economic difficulties which might be provoked by the implementation of the agreement reached.

It only remained for him to thank, in the name of both the Government of Iran and its delegation, the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its very warm welcome.

He also wished to thank the Chairman for the most capable manner in which he had conducted the business of the Committee. Further, he wished to pay his respects to the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the heads of the Indian, Turkish and Yugoslav delegations, whose collaboration was interpreted by the Iranian delegation as a token of sincere friendship. He would be failing in his duty if he did not pay tribute to the work of the Representative of the Secretary-General, to whom all present owed a deep debt of gratitude for the care and patience with which he had succeeded in disentangling the somewhat confused ideas which had first prevailed, and thus guided the negotiations to a successful close. He thought he would not be exaggerating if he said that all representatives had greatly benefited by the outstanding capability and technical advice of the Representative of the Secretary-General.

Finally, he wished to thank all members of the Secretariat for the enthusiasm which they had brought to the service of the Committee.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) said that throughout the session his delegation had constantly striven to make its contribution to a constructive agreement on the most difficult point of the Committee's work, namely, the allocation of export quotas. The Yugoslav delegation had

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initially proposed that the allocation of shares should be based on exports to the medical market for the period 1925-1929, which had been a normal period for exports.

As an alternative procedure, the Yugoslav delegation had also proposed that the period 1925-1940 might be taken as the basis for allocating export shares. That was a long pre-war period, although it included some very unfavourable years for Yugoslavia, and other years in which that country had made great efforts to reduce its production in opium, despite its importance for her general economy.

Although those two periods, as well as that from 1934-1940 proposed as the basis in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.1, page 21) would justify the allocation to Yugoslavia of export shares varying from more than 22 per cent down to 16.5 per cent, his delegation, appreciating the necessity of reaching at all costs, agreement on a question of great humanitarian significance, had voluntarily offered to reduce its share, in a manner and to an extent which would be all the more striking if and when the Secretary-General make public the actual shares agreed upon. That offer had been made in the hope that other delegations would subsequently find it easier to make similar reductions.

Moreover, the Yugoslav delegation wished now to announce that Yugoslavia would take up her share of world exports only in respect of a maximum of 450 tons for world scientific and medical needs. Should such estimated world export requirements exceed 450 tons, Yugoslavia renounced her share of the excess tonnage, which would thus remain for distribution among the other producing countries in such ratios as they might mutually agree upon.

In making that decision his delegation was firmly convinced that, as a result of the rising standard of health services throughout the world, requirements of opium for medical purposes would steadily increase. That process would normally have resulted in a steady expansion of Yugoslavia's traditional export market. However, the abolition of the non-medical market would undoubtedly entail a setback in the near future in the production of certain producing countries, and the Yugoslav delegation had wished to make that contraction less painful and more gradual for those countries.

His delegation considered that, in view of the large measure of good will and understanding for the decisions of the Economic and Social Council displayed by other delegations to the Committee, the latter's meeting would constitute a decisive turning point in the solution of the

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long-standing problem of opium, and would make a substantial contribution to its final solution.

Finally, the Yugoslav delegation wished to express its deep appreciation of the spirit of conciliation and international co-operation which had moved all delegations to make agreement possible. It wished also to thank, in particular, the Government of Turkey for its hospitality, and for the technical services it had made available. His delegation was also grateful to the Chairman for the patience and unfailing good humour with which he had presided over the Committee's deliberations, and to the Secretariat for the efficient service which it had rendered under the able direction of the Representative of the Secretary-General, to whom special thanks were due for the invaluable advice he had given to all delegations.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) was gratified to observe that after two weeks arduous labour, the Ad hoc Committee had reached agreement on all the points which it had been asked to deal with.

It was therefore his pleasant duty to congratulate the Committee on having arrived at a result, satisfactory from the humanitarian point of view, even if less so regarded from the angle of the opium-producing countries, in view of the fact that it had been achieved only at the price of concessions of varying extent by one delegation or another.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had asked the Committee to lay stable foundations for a future international agreement for limiting the use of opium to medical and scientific needs (an aim which had not hitherto proved possible of achievement, despite the existing Conventions), would no doubt appraise the result of the Committee's work at its true worth.

The task which the Committee had just completed had not been of the simplest, and in bringing it to a successful conclusion the Committee had frequently found itself face to face with serious difficulties, since it had been obliged to choose between humanitarian motives, which pointed to renunciation of economic interests, and economic considerations themselves of great importance for all the countries concerned. It was a great pleasure to record that the well-being of mankind had carried the day. The Committee might well be proud of that.

The allocation of export shares had been the most thorny item on the agenda. But, guided by a praiseworthy understanding of the problem, the Committee had been able in that case too to overcome all difficulties and reach agreement. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs would no doubt be grateful to the Committee for that achievement.

As a result of the decisions taken by the Committee, the conditions governing the export of opium and its control by Government monopolies would
/be standardized

be standardized for all producing countries; that would provide a guarantee that the total world production of opium would be disposed of to the international purchasing and selling agency, of which the Committee had also laid the foundations.

That agency would, to a large extent, do away with the difficulties which producing and consuming countries alike had hitherto encountered, by guaranteeing the former a stable market for the sale of their produce, and by making available to the latter such quantities of opium, of controlled quality and standard, as they might require. Moreover, it would frequently prove possible for the latter to choose the country of origin of their opium.

The hard work which the Committee had put in to reach that agreement would be more than paid for by the humanitarian value of the results achieved, and the concessions made by the various delegations would be offset by the moral satisfaction of knowing that they had conferred a considerable benefit on mankind.

He was happy to be able to express the thanks of the Turkish delegation to all other delegations for the conciliatory attitude they had displayed during the discussions, and would apologize for any lack of hospitality of which, despite its good intentions, the Turkish delegation might inadvertently have been guilty. He wished especially to thank the Representative of the Secretary-General, who had not spared himself to make the task of the Committee easier, and to come to the aid of all delegations in moments of crisis with his lively mind and fertile imagination.

He wished also to thank the Chairman for having conducted the debates so tactfully and wisely, and all members of the Secretariat for having achieved so much in so little time.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) thanked all representatives who had been good enough to associate the Secretariat with the results achieved by the Ad hoc Committee for the kindness of their words and the generosity of their sentiments.

The members of the Secretariat had done no more than their duty in helping the Committee to carry out the decisions and policy directives of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Their role, which was not always an easy one, was that of impartial servants of the Governments Members of the United Nations. That impartiality, from which it would be improper for the Secretariat to depart, might perhaps have hurt the feelings or interests of certain delegations from time to time. He trusted that the Secretariat's position would be appreciated, and that any injury so done had already been forgotten.

/The Secretariat's

The Secretariat's work had been made much easier by the pleasant atmosphere created by the discreet but cordial care and hospitality of the Turkish authorities; and in the several, if short, visits to various institutions so kindly arranged by Dr. Or, members of the Secretariat had had an opportunity of meeting the people of Turkey at first hand and of seeing for themselves that the attitude of the Government was but a reflection of the qualities and characteristics of the Turkish people as a whole.

He wished also to thank the Observers for the suggestions and general contribution they had made.

Finally, the Secretariat's responsibilities, and particularly his own, had been greatly lightened by recourse at times of crises to the wise and effective help of the Chairman.

The Committee had thus by way of mutual concessions, reached the end of the first stage of the road towards the suppression of the illicit trade in opium and addiction to it. More difficulties would naturally be encountered at the next meeting. If however, the same spirit prevailed on that occasion, all would be well. He therefore dared to hope that the near future would see the achievement of the objective behind the Committee's work, namely, the limitation of the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, and the guarantee that the legitimate needs of the sick and suffering would always be assured without risk of failure.

The CHAIRMAN announced that Their Excellencies Mr. Necmettin Sadak, Mr. Kemali Bayazit, Mr. Firat Dicleli and Mr. Cavit Oral respectively, the ministers for Foreign Affairs, Hygiene and Social Welfare, Commerce, and Agriculture in the Government of the Republic of Turkey, had honoured the meeting with their presence and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had asked for the floor.

He had much pleasure in inviting His Excellency Mr. Sadak to address the Committee.

His Excellency Mr. Necmettin SADAK, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, conveyed to the Committee on the occasion of the closure of its session the warmest congratulations of the Government of the Republic of Turkey.

His experience as Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Turkey to the League of Nations, in which capacity he had attended several meetings dealing with narcotics, made it easy for him to appraise at their true worth the difficulties which its task entailed for the Committee, and the beneficial effects that the constructive decisions which it had been called upon to take would have on the common good.

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There was no need for him to enter into the staggering details, of which all were unfortunately aware, of the widespread use of narcotic drugs in all the countries, and among all the classes, of the world. The Governments affected had been obliged to take the most severe and well-intentioned steps to counteract that danger, which was growing daily. It was unnecessary for him to describe the efforts made by each country in that field, or the results obtained. It would suffice to say that his own country, deeply conscious of the magnitude of the problem on the social, humanitarian and world planes, had considered no sacrifice too great to hasten the achievement of the aim which all had made their own, namely, the limitation of the production and export of opium to world requirements for medical and scientific needs alone. He must add at once that the other producing countries represented on the Committee had displayed the same spirit of concession, and the utmost goodwill in the field of human mutual assistance.

But, although much had undoubtedly already been achieved, the work had so far been, and still was incomplete. It remained to perfect it. To that end, it had been necessary for producing countries, at a joint meeting, to decide in an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual concession on the measures which must be taken to bring their production and exports of opium under control.

Was that not why representatives had been led to adopt, by common consent, its decisions (which he could sum up under four headings) the ultimate purpose of which was the attainment of the aim which all hoped to see realized?

In the first place, the producing countries would take in common the measures required to limit their production and exports of opium to the amounts required for medical and scientific needs. Producing countries which had no Government opium monopoly would set one up in accordance with principles to be established by a committee composed of representatives of both producing and manufacturing countries. Countries which already had Government monopolies would bring them into line with those principles. It would thus be guaranteed that the areas sown with the opium poppy would be fixed and limited by the monopoly, which would alone enjoy the right of buying and selling opium.

Secondly, the producing countries, with due regard for past production and exports, would agree equitably among themselves on the percentage shares of the medical and scientific market to which they would be entitled each year. They also undertook to regulate their poppy cultivation and production of opium accordingly.

/Thirdly,

Thirdly, an international agency would be set up, whose task it would be to take over the quantities of opium corresponding to the share allotted to each producing country and to deliver opium to the several manufacturing countries. In that way, producing countries would be relieved of anxiety as to the possibility of disposing of their production, and manufacturing countries in their turn would be assured of always finding in the possession of the agency adequate quantities of opium for their legitimate needs.

Finally, account had been taken of the fact that it would be necessary to set up an international co-ordinating authority to lay down world opium policy, to issue the necessary directives to the international agency, to fix prices and quality standards for opium, and to determine the quantities of opium required each year for legitimate purposes. Such an authority would also be set up as a result of the decisions taken by the Committee.

He would like to take the opportunity of recalling that his country had always been one of the largest producers of first-quality opium, but that its use (except for medical purposes) had never been common there.

Moreover, as representatives knew, the cultivation of the opium poppy in Turkey had been subject to Government control, through the opium monopoly, since 1933. Similarly, the export of opium was concentrated in the hands of the Soil Products Office. He was happy to be able to inform the meeting once more that the scope of the Turkish Government opium monopoly would very shortly be extended to cover the internal trade in opium, thereby perfecting Turkish legislation and administrative arrangements in the field of opium, and making them irreproachable.

The task of the Committee, however, was not yet finished; and it was far from easy. The abolition of the use of opium for non-medical purposes must be ensured at all costs. Mankind as a whole must pool its resources in an endeavour to rehabilitate the unfortunate victims of drug addiction, and to prevent that evil from claiming fresh victims.

Finally, in view of the existence of world-wide smuggling, which called for repressive measures on an international scale, it was essential that all civilized Governments, both individually and collectively, should intensify their efforts to stamp out that seven-headed hydra.

He wished to thank members of the Committee for the perfect understanding which they had displayed in the matter of the allocation of sales shares. He also thanked them for having chosen Ankara as their meeting place. Their choice of His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan as Chairman, too, had much touched the people of Turkey. It was also his pleasure to pay his respects to the United Nations themselves for their unremitting activities in a field of such vital interest.

/He congratulated

He congratulated members on the spirit of co-operation which they had displayed and of which they could all justly be proud, and on the mutual concessions they had made, and hoped that they would carry away from Ankara, not merely memories of difficult labours successfully completed, but also memories of an agreeable stay in Turkey.

The CHAIRMAN hoped that representatives would allow him to sum up the results of the Committee's work. That was a pleasant duty, as the Committee had succeeded in completely discharging the task with which it had been entrusted. The course of the meetings had been harmonious and, despite the very considerable divergences of view which had appeared from time to time, all the Committee's decisions had been unanimous. That was a rare achievement, worthy of emphasis, and the results attained could truly be called a success.

The vital objective of the meetings had been, on the one hand, to guarantee to the world the amounts of opium required for legitimate medical and scientific needs, and, on the other hand, by limiting the production of opium to those requirements to facilitate the suppression of the illicit traffic in opium and addiction to that drug.

Within the scope of its terms of reference, the Committee had made proposals concerning methods of determining world requirements in opium for medical and scientific purposes, and it had also expressed well-defined views on the structure and mode of operation of Government opium monopolies. It had also closely studied the possibility of setting up an international purchasing and selling agency, which would strengthen international control and make it easier to operate.

Finally, in the field which was at once the most important and the most difficult, the Committee had not only expressed firm views on methods of allocating exports of opium among producing countries, but had even reached agreement on the percentage share of the total volume of the legitimate international trade in opium to which each country was entitled. Several attempts had been made in the past to reach such an agreement, but the present Committee was the first to have succeeded.

If, at the meeting which representatives would be attending in a few months' time with representatives of the drug manufacturing countries, representatives succeeded in achieving in the same spirit and with the same unanimity the constructive results hoped for, the day when the production of opium would indeed be limited to medical and scientific needs would no longer be far distant.

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At the present time, when true agreements were so rare and failure to agree so common, every success of the kind achieved by the Committee, no matter how limited its scope, was of importance.

Each delegation had come to the meeting with certain plans and claims. No delegation, however, had realized its expectations to the full; the agreement reached had been born of mutual concessions. The patience and perseverance, good will and long hours of work of the Committee had prevailed, in a comparatively short space of time, over all difficulties.

He wished also to thank the observers for their contributions to the debate and for the patience and forbearance with which they had followed the work of the Committee.

Having thanked representatives for the indulgence and courtesy which they had constantly shown him, which had greatly eased his task, he wished to express, both in the name of the Committee and personally, gratitude to the Secretariat, which had been so closely and actively associated with the work of the Committee. All aspects of the Committee's work had been carried out with care and expedition, and he thought the Secretariat's efforts merited general admiration.

He was convinced that he would be speaking for all present when he expressed his admiration for the active part which the Representative of the Secretary-General had unceasingly played in the Committee's work. His knowledge, experience and talents as negotiator and conciliator, which he had been good enough to place at the disposal of all delegations, had been of great use.

The Committee was indeed indebted to the Secretary-General for having provided the Committee with so capable a team.

In conclusion, he must thank most sincerely the Turkish Ministries, Government Departments and Institutions concerned for the valuable assistance which they had rendered. He must particularly mention the University of Ankara, and especially its Faculty of Agriculture, which had generously provided general services and office accommodation.

He asked the Committee to accept his best wishes for a pleasant return to their homes and for success in the work and negotiations which awaited them within the competent bodies of the United Nations. He hoped that they would succeed in arriving at the results which all hoped to see achieved as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.
