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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Ad hoc Committee of the Principal Opium-producing Countries

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

held at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ankara,
on Friday, 2 December 1949, at 10.15 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. Ali TARHAN

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Present:

Members:

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

Observers:

China	Mr. JEN KI-SIN
Egypt	Dr. LABIB
France	Mr. SUSINI
Netherlands	Mr. de JONGH

Also present:

Mr. KRASOVEC	Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Secretariat:

Mr. Steinig	Representative of the Secretary- General, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. Masar	Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. Bolton	Secretary to the Committee

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1. QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE Ad hoc COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the Agenda) (continued)
(b) methods of allocating exports of opium (continued)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had still to dispose of Item 4(b) of its agenda (methods of allocating exports of opium).

Mr. COEHLO (India) proposed that the Committee sit in closed session, as he would find it difficult to make a statement at a public meeting.

As all present knew, the prolonged informal discussions had finally resulted in a provisional agreement on the figures for the allocation to be made to each producing country. However, as he was still without authority finally to commit the Indian Government, he would like the figures to be kept secret until the approval of his Government was forthcoming.

Mr. AMINI (Iran), who found himself in a similar position, supported the Indian proposal. He wished again to emphasize that he was unable for the time being to commit the Government of Iran to any figure other than those he had announced at public meetings.

The CHAIRMAN, having invoked Rule 40 of the revised rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, which it had been agreed should govern the proceedings of the Committee, put the Indian proposal to the vote.

The Indian proposal was unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that only members of the Committee and the Secretariat staff strictly essential to the conduct of the meeting could remain in the meeting room.

The Ad hoc Committee went into closed session at 10.30 a.m. and resumed its public meeting at 11.45 a.m.

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The CHAIRMAN announced that, at its closed meeting, the Ad hoc Committee had continued its discussion of Item 4(b) of the agenda (methods of allocating exports of opium), that a full exchange of views had taken place and that the Committee had eventually decided to resume its discussions on that item.

2. ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of representatives to the draft report (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.14).

Mr. COEHLO (India) considered that, if the Committee intended to adopt the suggestion made by the Representative of the Secretary-General at the seventh meeting, namely, that the report should be given two readings (see document E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.7, pages 5 and 6), it would be sufficient for the moment to draw the attention of representatives to each paragraph in succession, requesting their observations thereon, leaving the formal reading of the report to the next meeting.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) supported the Indian proposal. The report was too important a document to be disposed of hastily.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that it might be better, in order to give representatives time to study the report at their leisure, to defer the first reading until the next meeting. If representatives came to that meeting with their considered modifications adequately prepared, the second reading would become a mere formality.

It was so agreed.

Mr. COEHLO (India) asked for permission to submit his observations on the report forthwith, as he was obliged to leave Ankara that day.

The CHAIRMAN agreed.

Mr. COEHLO (India) thought that the report should open with a summary emphasizing the two very important decisions which had been taken, namely: the decision that all producing countries should set up Government monopolies, similar in structure and mode of operation; and the decision to appoint a co-ordinating Authority, to carry out the functions of the policy making body, and to set up an international purchasing and selling Agency to act as the executive organ of the co-ordinating Authority. In the latter connection, reference should also be made in the summary to the mutual obligations assumed by the producing countries (to sell to the international Agency all the opium they produced for export) and the Agency (to buy all such opium).

It might, or might not, prove possible eventually to reach agreement on quotas, but, as he had pointed out in the closed meeting, that problem represented only the economic aspect of the Committee's work. It was true that that aspect was a most important one, but he felt that any failure to agree upon it should not be allowed to detract from the real value of the decisions taken. The international Agency could certainly be operated without quotas being quantitatively fixed. In any event, although the Committee had admittedly unanimously decided that the quota system should be adopted as the basis for allocating exports, it was not impossible that one of the further conferences it was proposed to hold on the matter might reverse that decision.

He also had two minor drafting changes to propose.

He considered that the word "trade" should be deleted from line 7 of page 4 of the English text. The Committee had been convened, not to discuss trade or economic aspects of the problem, but to reach agreement on the humanitarian objective of limiting the production of opium to medical and scientific needs.

He also thought that it should be made clear in the opening words of Section 11 that the original proposal relating to the international agency had been made by the representative of Iran, and that he (Mr. Coehlo) had only submitted an amendment thereto.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) supported the proposal of the Indian representative that the constructive results achieved by the Committee should be duly emphasized in a summary to the report.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) undertook that the Secretariat would take into account the remarks of the representative of India, and would strengthen the summaries in the manner suggested.

Mr. COEHLO (India) proposed that the Secretariat should issue a press release at the end of the session, bringing out the points he had emphasized in his comments on the draft report.

The CHAIRMAN indicated that this would be done.

3. STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Mr. KRASOVEC (Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs) regretted that he was unable to stay to see the end of the Committee's work, near as it appeared to be. It could truly be said that, unless an unexpected setback occurred, the Committee was on the point of taking a great step towards the limitation of the production of opium. As the speakers at the opening meeting had rightly emphasized, the many attempts made during the forty years which had

elapsed since the first international meeting on the subject had been held at Shanghai, to bring the opium trade under international control, had been largely frustrated owing to the impossibility of arriving in the first instance at an agreement to limit the cultivation of the opium poppy. The world was therefore hanging eagerly on the result of the Committee's work, and he sincerely hoped that its final act would put the final seal on the work begun so long ago.

He was proud that he could say that the idea of the solution to the problem now proposed had been conceived and elaborated in the Commission over which he had the honour to preside. That was why he had come to Ankara to watch the Committee's deliberations. Any failure to reach full agreement would, in his opinion, deal a severe blow to the ultimate aim of the Commission's current work, namely, the unification of all existing Conventions relating to the control of narcotic drugs.

4. STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

Dr. LABIB (Egypt) announced that he too was obliged to leave Ankara that day. Before doing so, he wished to impress on all members of the Committee that Egypt, as one of the most unfortunate victims of the illicit traffic, was exceedingly interested in the problem before the Committee, and most anxious to see its efforts to limit the production of such narcotics as opium, hashish etc, crowned with success. He therefore, in the name of the Government of Egypt, wished the Committee all success in what remained for it to do.

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN,

the Committee decided that its next meeting would take place on Monday, 5 December 1949, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.