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THIRD SESSION

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

MEMORANDUM ON THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN
NARCOTIC DRUGS DURING 1947

Prepared by the Secretariat

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/PART I

PART I

1. As only a few Governments* have so far communicated their annual reports for 1947 on the Chapter V of these reports, the Secretariat is not in a position to submit to the Commission at this session a full and comprehensive study on trends of illicit traffic during that year. The preparation of such a study covering the whole world for the spring session of the Commission would be possible only if all Governments and territories concerned transmitted Chapter V of their annual reports by 31 March as requested by the Commission.**

Since the Secretariat has only received the annual reports and/or Chapter V from countries and territories listed below, it has had to rely on data contained in reports on seizures effected during 1947 which were transmitted by sixteen Governments under Article 23 of the 1931 Convention.

2. Although the information furnished in these reports is most valuable, it cannot, however, be considered as a sufficient basis for the study of trends of illicit traffic in 1947.

While submitting to the Commission in Part II of this memorandum tables and comments based on information given in seizure reports and annual reports, the Secretariat is aware of the fact that this picture of illicit traffic may be incomplete for two reasons. In the first place, it seems that not all Governments concerned have reported the cases of illicit traffic which occurred in their territories in 1947.*** Secondly, in reporting the quantities of drugs seized, Governments, with some exceptions, failed to state the origin of these drugs.

* Canada, France, Japan (transmitted by the Supreme Commander, Allied Headquarters, Japan), Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yugoslavia, Basutoland, British Guiana, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, St. Lucia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Swaziland.

** See "Form of Annual Reports to be Communicated by Governments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Accordance with Article 21 of the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs as Amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946" (Document E/NR.1946/FCRM).

*** The Secretariat has been unofficially informed of the existence of an important illicit traffic in certain countries and territories in Asia which have not submitted any reports on this subject.

3. One of the main purposes of any study on trends of illicit traffic is to prove the origin of such narcotics. In most cases, however, the Governments failed to state the origin of raw opium and other narcotics seized. This may be illustrated by the following figures: total quantity of raw opium seized in 1947 as reported to the Secretariat was 4761 kilogrammes. Of this quantity, 125 kilogrammes were reported as being of Indian origin, 15 kilogrammes as being of Iranian origin, and 39 kilogrammes as being of Turkish origin. In addition, 102 kilogrammes was suspected to be Indian opium and about 9 kilogrammes of Iranian origin.

In respect of 453 kilogrammes or 9 per cent, the origin was stated as unknown; for 3,502 kilogrammes or 74 per cent, no information was given, either in the seizure reports or in Chapters V of the annual reports; and with regard to 409 kilogrammes, or 9 per cent, the origin was listed as partly Chinese and partly Iranian, but no indication was furnished as to the ratio. The origin was therefore expressly stated for only 6 per cent of the total quantity seized, while the suspected origin was indicated for the remaining 2 per cent.

Such a situation cannot be considered as satisfactory. In some cases it may be extremely difficult to establish the origin, but the number of cases in which no information was given appears to be excessive.

It may be added that in some cases investigation as to the origin of drugs seized is being continued after the transmission of the seizure reports and that the findings of such an investigation may be given subsequently in the annual reports.

4. In these circumstances, the Secretariat, having carefully scrutinized all official information so far received concerning the illicit traffic in 1947, has prepared the following two tables with comments reproduced in Part II of the present memorandum.*

* The Commission might desire the Secretariat to submit to the Commission in the second half of the present year a more complete study on trends of illicit traffic during 1947 based on annual reports for that year and any other information which may be subsequently received.

Table I gives total quantities of narcotics seized which have been reported so far by Governments for 1947 and also contains comments on important seizures made during that year. The total number of seizure reports received was 239; 146 have been circulated to Governments, while 93 received since 1 January 1948, will appear, in accordance with the decision of the Commission taken at its second session, in the first and second two-monthly summaries of seizures for 1948.

Table II shows the origin of raw opium seized during 1947 and contains figures referred to above.

If the Commission approves this manner of presentation, similar tables could be prepared by the Secretariat for the next session of the Commission.

5. In the absence of explicit information in governmental reports concerning the origin of more than 90 per cent of the total quantity seized, attention is called to the following statements contained in Chapters V for 1947 received from the following countries and territories:

France

"Smuggled opium, of Balkan, Turkish or Iranian origin is now transported in very small quantities in France by merchant ships typing up at the Port of Marseilles in particular.

Nine kilogrammes of opium were seized at Marseilles. It was established that the opium was of Turkish origin."

United States of America

"The trends in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in the United States in 1947 began to take on a resemblance to conditions in pre-war days. A few of the old sources of supply, such as France and Italy, again became active. In addition, India and Turkey became increasingly active as bases for the smuggling of cannabis and opium. This was verified by chemical and physical examination of the drugs seized, by statements of defendants and by itineraries of vessels involved."

Hong Kong

"The raw opium seized was largely of Chinese origin, but one seizure of raw opium from India was probably of Iranian origin."

For further statements concerning trends of illicit traffic, reference is made to the Annual Report of the United States of America (document E/CN.7/W.24, pages 21-22).

The situation with reference to Mexico will be considered by the Commission under Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda.

6. Another feature of the illicit traffic during 1947 which is pointed out by the Government of France and the Supreme Commander, Allied Headquarters, Japan, in their Chapters V is the importance of the former military stocks as sources of supply of the clandestine market in narcotics.

"Cocaine seems to be the drug with which the illicit market was mainly supplied.

"It originates mostly from Germany where the stocks have been the object of looting at the time of the occupation by the Allied armies. It is introduced by the smugglers through the workmen employed in factories equipped for manufacturing cocaine, and passes clandestinely through the French-Belgian or French-German frontiers.

"According to certain information which has come to the knowledge of the Judicial Police of the Prefecture of Police, the cocaine, which cannot be used up completely on French territory where addicts are very few, is being brought up by the traffickers to Spain and above all to Italy." (France)

"Illicit narcotic traffic in Japan during 1947 originated principally from former army and navy narcotic stocks which were pilfered by officials stationed at medical depots, hospitals, and military installations throughout Japan at the end of the war. Although a concerted effort was made to recover all of these narcotics, seizures during the year indicate that considerable stocks may still be expected to be discovered."* (Japan)

This proves the importance of the strict compliance by Governments with the provisions of the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 5 March 1948 (document E/750) relating to narcotic drugs contained in surplus military stores.

7. The Commission may desire to examine the question of illicit traffic during 1947 in the light of the above statements, taking into consideration the results of the method followed by the United States authorities in determining by chemical analysis the origin of raw opium seized.

The Commission may also desire to include in its report to the Economic and Social Council its conclusions and recommendations on the possible improvements in the method of submitting reports on the illicit traffic.

* 12 kilogrammes, 993 grammes of crude opium in terms of anhydrous alkaloidal content from the former Japanese military stocks were seized during 1947.

PART II

TABLE "A"

SEIZURES EFFECTED DURING 1947 (1)
(figures in kilogrammes)

No.	Country	Raw Opium	Prepared Opium	Morphine	Heroin	Cocaine	Indian Hemp	Miscellaneous
1.	AUSTRALIA (a)	64.8657	1.4530	-	-	-	-	-
2.	CANADA (a)*	173.2828	.0875	.0515	.2618	.0050	-	.1941
3.	CHINA (a)	51.2400	.7800	4.4258	4.7310	-	-	46.4531
4.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA (b)	-	-	.0120	-	.0810	-	-
5.	EGYPT (a)	756.6396	-	1.1502	.1075	1.0340	698.2943	.2810
6.	FRANCE (c)	11.0660	.3540	.8128	.4202	2.2200	30.2500	.0100
7.	GREECE (a)	-	-	-	-	-	8.6500	-
8.	INDIA (a)	2,233.6413	.0319	-	-	-	-	-
9.	ITALY (a)	2.1000	-	.0010	-	6.0264	1.6000	-
10.	JAPAN (b)	25.0550	.8620	7.2310	.0600	7.0960	.1820	11.0370
11.	MEXICO (b)	60.1685	-	-	.8081	-	1,202.1329	5.0000
12.	NETHERLANDS (a)	27.0000	-	.0150	-	.1560	-	-
13.	NORWAY (b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	SWEDEN (a)	4.7500	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	SWITZERLAND (c)	-	-	-	-	2.2500	-	.0010
16.	UNITED KINGDOM (a)	82.3552	25.8910	.3836	-	.0284	11.7673	-
17.	UNITED STATES (c)	104.4520	84.6150	1.2020	23.0810	.7670	769.0350	3.2430
18.	YUGOSLAVIA (b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Basutoland (b)	-	-	-	-	-	163.0000	-
20.	British Guiana (b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Gibraltar (b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Hong Kong (b)	409.0000	-	.0280	-	-	-	-
23.	Palestine (a)	748.8951	-	.1000	-	.1447	1,806.3891	-
24.	Portuguese India (a)	-	-	-	-	.2915	-	-
25.	St. Lucia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	St. Pierre (b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Sarawak (a)	3.6850	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Sudan, Anglo-Egyptian (b)	.0218	-	-	-	-	31.1348	-
29.	Swaziland (b)	-	-	-	-	-	21.7724	-
30.	Trinidad (a)	3.0051	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:		4,761.2431	114.0744	15.4129	29.4696	20.1000	4,744.2118	66.2192

FOR FOOTNOTES - SEE FOLLOWING PAGE.

(1) Figures

(1) Figures throughout this table are based on seizure reports and Chapters V of the annual reports for 1947 received by the Secretariat up to 29 April 1948.

(a) Information obtained from individual seizure reports.

(b) Information obtained from annual reports.

(c) Information obtained from both annual and seizure reports.

* The Canadian Annual Report for 1947 was received after the preparation of this Table had been completed.

/TABLE "B"

TABLE B

ORIGIN OF RAW OPIUM SEIZED DURING 1947 (1)
(figures in kilogrammes)

Country	Total Quantity Seized	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:				SUSPECTED COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:			ORIGIN UNKNOWN (% of total)	NO INFORMATION (% of Total)
		India	Iran	Turkey	Miscellaneous	India	Iran	Turkey		
AUSTRALIA(a)	64.8857	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.9072(1%)	63.9785(99%)
CANADA(a)*	173.2828	73.9354	-	-	.0064(d)	94.3467	-	-	4.0823(2%)	.9120(1%)
CHINA(a)	51.2400	.0075	-	-	.0135(e)	-	-	-	7.8440(15%)	43.3430(87%)
EGYPT(a)	756.6396	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	346.7840(46%)	409.8556(54%)
FRANCE(c)	11.0660	-	-	9.0000	-	-	-	-	-	2.0660(19%)
INDIA(a)	2,233.6413	25.0338	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.3616(2%)	2,166.2459(97%)
ITALY(a)	2.1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.1000(100%)
JAPAN(b)	25.0550	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.0550(100%)
MEXICO(b)	60.1685	-	-	-	43.5135(f)	-	-	-	16.6550(28%)	-
NETHERLANDS(b)	27.0000	-	-	-	27.0000(d)	-	-	-	-	-
SWEDEN(a)	4.7500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.7500(100%)
U.K.(a)	82.3552	-	-	-	-	7.7110	9.6568	-	33.6225(41%)	31.3649(38%)
U.S.A.(c)	104.4520	26.4330	13.1540	30.3910	34.4740(f)	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong(b)	409.0000	-	-	-	(g)	-	(g)	-	-	-
Palestine(a)	748.8951	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	748.8951(100%)
Sarawak(a)	3.6850	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.6850(100%)
A-E Sudan (b)	.0218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.0218(100%)
Trinidad(a)	3.0051	-	2.6649	-	-	-	-	-	.3402(11%)	-
TOTALS:	4,761.2431	125.4097	15.8189	39.3910	105.0394	102.0577	9.6568	-	452.5968(9.5%)	3,502.2726(74%)

Figures throughout this table are based on seizure reports and Chapters V of the annual reports for 1947 received by the Secretariat up to 28 April 1948.

Information obtained from individual seizure reports.

Information obtained from annual reports.

Information obtained from both annual and seizure reports.

Originated in legitimate channels.

Of Indo-Chinese origin (Annam)

Of Mexican Origin.

"The raw opium seized was largely of Chinese origin, but one seizure of raw opium from India was probably of Iranian origin." -
Annual Report of Hong Kong for 1947.
The Canadian Annual Report for 1947 was received after the preparation of this Table had been completed.

/COMMENTS

COMMENTS

- Notes:
1. Total quantities seized in each country and territory according to seizure reports for 1946 are shown at the end of each paragraph. Total quantities given in annual reports for 1946 are shown in a special table embodied in Part III of the Summary of Illicit Transactions and Seizures for January-February 1948. (Document E/CN.7/W.29)
 2. Detailed information concerning seizures effected in Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Basutoland, British Guiana, Hong Kong, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Swaziland will be found in Chapters V of the Annual Reports for 1947 from these countries and territories which are reproduced in documents E/CN.7/W.30 and Add.1 and Add.2. Norway, Yugoslavia, Gibraltar, St. Lucia, St. Pierre et Miquelon, and Swaziland have informed the Secretary-General that there was no illicit traffic in their territories in 1947. The annual report received from the Government of Mexico for 1947 including Chapter V is being submitted to the Commission in connection with Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda.

1. Australia

Raw Opium

There were 27 seizures during 1947. The largest individual seizure consisted of 17 kilogrammes, 775 grammes seized from a Chinese crew member aboard the British motor vessel Daronia coming from Abadan, Iran.

25 kilogrammes 217.7 grammes were seized on ships coming from Indian ports, 32 kilogrammes 148.3 grammes on ships coming from Iranian ports, and 737.1 grammes on ships coming from Japanese ports.

The seizure reports from the Government of Australia have stated in all cases that there were no marks on the opium seized.

The total quantity of raw opium seized during 1946 was 14 kilogrammes 945.1 grammes.

Prepared Opium

There were 5 seizures during 1947. 1 kilogramme 453 grammes were seized on ships coming from Noumea, New Caledonia; Abadan, Iran; Hong Kong; and London, United Kingdom.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 4 kilogrammes 564 grammes.

/3. China

3. China

Raw Opium

There were twenty seizures during 1947. The largest seizure consisted of 8 kilogrammes 500 grammes. Others involved small quantities. In the case of 7.5 grammes in respect of which origin was indicated as being Indian, opium came from Hong Kong.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 245 kilogrammes 609 grammes.

Heroin

There were five seizures during 1947. Only in respect of 78 grammes of diacetylmorphine seized at Paoting, Hopei, was the trade mark indicated as being "Pine-Samboo-Plun". Other seizures involving 4 kilogrammes 883 gr. were effected in the Municipality of Tientsin.

The circumstances of seizure of 4 kilogrammes 725 grammes of diacetylmorphine indicated that this quantity was intended to be smuggled to Shanghai.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 3 kilogrammes 770 grammes.

5. Egypt

Raw Opium

There were 61 seizures during 1947. The most important seizure reported consisted of 141 kilogrammes 500 grammes of raw opium. It was effected at Alexandria aboard the S.S. Efe. The report from the Egyptian Government did not indicate the nationality of the ship and stated that the sources of origin of the seized drugs were unknown. The seizure was made owing to the information received by the Coast Guard Administration in Alexandria from the Royal Egyptian Legation in Istanbul, to the effect that large quantities of opium and hashish would be smuggled aboard the above-mentioned ship. It was believed that this ship had been specially prepared for smuggling.

Other considerable seizures were made at Suez and Ismailia and involved 133 kilogrammes 400 grammes, 84 kilogrammes 530 grammes and 87 kilogrammes 500 grammes of raw opium, respectively. In the first and in the third case the origin was under enquiry at the time of the transmission of the report; in the second case it was stated as unknown.

In the case of the seizure of 13 kilogrammes 950 grammes of raw opium, the accused stated that he had smuggled the drug from Palestine but the sources of the drugs were indicated as being unknown.

The method of smuggling narcotics in stomachs of camels was again discovered in the case of 30 kilogrammes 720 grammes of opium purchased at Gaza and seized at Kantara.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 469 kilogrammes 737 grammes.

Morphine

There were three seizures during 1947. In connection with information to the effect that certain German war prisoners interned in Egypt were selling narcotic drugs stolen from the Royal Medical Corps of the British army, 17 ampoules of morphine and one bottle of morphine liquid were seized from a notorious trafficker at Suez. 13 ampoules of cocaine and some amounts of medical substances were also seized on the same occasion.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 125 grammes.

Indian Hemp

There were 70 seizures during 1947. It does not generally appear from the seizure reports whether the hashish was of local origin or whether it has been smuggled into the country. Only in some cases involving insignificant quantities, were statements by offenders mentioned to the effect that the drugs had been purchased in Palestine or obtained from a stranger (Indian) or that a foreigner has been arrested (Yugoslav). In the case involving a seizure of 7 kilogrammes 800 grammes of hashish at Kantara, the offender confessed that he had smuggled the drugs into Egypt from Palestine with the intention of taking them into the interior of the country. The source of the drugs was not known.

However, the foreign origin of hashish smuggled into Egypt seems to appear from the fact that 19 per cent of the total quantity reported was seized at Kantara.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 215 kilogrammes 305.8 grammes.

6. France

The total number of seizures effected during 1947 was not given.

Raw Opium

9 kilogrammes 300 grammes of raw opium were seized at Marseilles aboard the Panamanian cargo ship Andrea. According to the statements of the offenders, the opium had been taken on board the Andrea at Beirut, Syria.

The total quantity seized during 1946 was 10 kilogrammes.

Morphine, Heroin, Cocaine and Indian Hemp

85.6 grammes of morphine seized had been stolen by the defendant from a German military truck during the occupation.

No individual seizure reports were received in respect of any of the other above-mentioned drugs. Totals shown in the tables were given in Chapter V of the Annual Report for 1947 (see document E/CN.7/W.30)

The total quantities seized during 1946 were as follows: morphine - 1 kilogramme 681 grammes; heroin - 850 grammes; cocaine - 3 kilogrammes;

7. Greece

The quantity of hashish shown was seized on 21 November 1947 aboard the vessel Thessaloniki coming from Cavallia.*

8. India

Raw Opium

There were 101 seizures during 1947. The significant fact shown in the reports from the Government of India is the frequency of seizures of important quantities of raw opium aboard ships bound for Far Eastern ports.

It may be mentioned that during January 1947 ten seizures involving 650 kilogrammes 104 grammes of raw opium were effected in Calcutta on vessels coming from and bound for Hong Kong, Penang, Rangoon, and Singapore. The source of opium was indicated as being unknown.

The total quantity seized in 1946 was 880 kilogrammes.

9. Italy

The report of seizures of illicit traffic in 1947 recently received from the Commissioner for Hygiene and Public Health of Italy covered 17 seizures made at Alessandria, Bologna, Florence, Genoa, Merano, Milan, Parma, Rome, Salerno, Trento, Udine, and Verona. The origin of drugs seized was mentioned only in two cases: one of 1 kilogramme 600 grammes of Indian hemp presumably obtained from a foreign ship which had called at the port of Genoa, and the other of 1 kilogramme 450 grammes of a substance believed to be cocaine manufactured by Merck and Company in Darmstadt which was brought from Switzerland. The report stated that in all cases the substances confiscated were forwarded by the Police Commissariat to the medical warehouse.

No details of judicial proceedings against offenders were given.

12. Netherlands

The total number of seizures was not given.

According to the report covering the first half of 1947 transmitted by the Netherlands Government, smuggling into the Netherlands was mostly carried out from Germany. The report suggests that illicit traffic has become wide-spread in the British Zone of Germany. It is believed that cocaine and other drugs are being smuggled into the Netherlands aboard tugs going down the Rhine. Cases of smuggling occur mostly in the provinces of Twente and Limburg, especially in the southern part of the latter.

* The report received from the Greek Government will be included in the second two-monthly summary of seizures.

The opium seized came from a consignment of about 1800 kilogrammes which had been despatched from London to Prague in December 1946. During transshipment at Amsterdam, about 50 kilogrammes were stolen. Of this quantity 28 kilogrammes disappeared and 22 kilogrammes were seized. The opium bore the mark "TM".

1400 capsules of morphine and 247 ampoules of various drugs seized at Amsterdam came probably from German military stocks.

Some smaller quantities of narcotics involving 55 grammes of cocaine, 92 ampoules and 15 grammes of morphine were indicated as being of Russian origin.

Finally, the report pointed out the collaboration with the Australian authorities and British authorities in Germany and Austria in connection with the cases of illicit traffic.

The seizures made during 1946 consisted of 120 grammes of prepared opium and of 416 ampoules and 279 tablets of morphine.

14. Sweden

The opium was seized aboard a Turkish steamship Edirne coming from Evagli, Turkey. It was dispatched to a Turkish subject residing in Sweden.

During 1946 1 gramme of morphine hydrochloride was seized.

15. Switzerland

A seizure was effected of 2 kilogrammes 250 grammes of cocaine deriving from the quantity of 12 kilogrammes 500 grammes manufactured in Switzerland and finding its way into the illicit traffic since 1934. More than 50 persons have been implicated in the enquiry which is being pursued by the Swiss authorities. The enquiry has disclosed that 8 kilogrammes 930 grammes of the above-mentioned quantity had been smuggled to Italy and 1 kilogramme to France.

No seizures were reported for 1946.

23. Palestine

There were during 1947, 41 seizures of raw opium, one seizure of morphine, 10 seizures of cocaine, and 139 seizures of Indian Hemp.

The reports of seizures effected in Palestine generally do not give circumstances of seizures and are limited to the indication of quantities seized and of names of the persons implicated. In most cases results of judicial proceedings were still unknown.

The total quantities of raw opium and hashish seized during 1946 were 359 kilogrammes 814 grammes, 1,189 kilogrammes 221.3 grammes respectively.

27. Sarawak

There were during 1947, two seizures of opium (chandu) effected on a vessel coming from Singapore. Although the opium bore no marks, it was

believed to come from Swatow, China.

According to the Annual Report for 1946, opium seizures were made but no statistics were provided for them.

30. Trinidad

There were two seizures during 1947. 2 kg. 665 gr. of the total quantity seized were seized on the ship Wave Knight and had been obtained at Abadan, Iran.

The total quantity of raw opium seized in 1946 was 3 kg. 740 gr.
