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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

SUMMARY RECORD OF NINTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday, 3 December 1946, at 10:30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Colonel C.H.L. Sharman	(Canada)
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. S. Tubiasz	(Poland)
Rapporteur:	Dr. Szeming Sze	(China)
	Mr. Mohamed Amin Zaki	(Egypt)
	Mr. G. Bourgois	(France)
	Mr. H. Greenfield	(India)
	Mr. A.G. Panahy	(Iran)
	Dr. J. Quevedo Bazan	(Mexico)
	Mr. J.H. Delgorge	(Netherlands)
	Mr. J.A. Lazarte	(Peru)
	Mr. Fikret Belbez	(Turkey)
	Major W.H. Coles	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. J. Anslinger	(United States)
	Mr. V. Zuev	(USSR)
	Mr. S. Krasovec	(Yugoslavia)
	Mr. Herbert May	(President of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Member of the Supervisory Body)
Secretariat:	Mr. L. Steinig	(Director of the Narcotics Division)
	Mr. V. Pastuhov	(Secretary of the Commission)

1. World trends of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs during the war 1939 - 1945 (document E/C.S.7/9). Continuation of discussion.

United States

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. ANSLINGER if he was agreeable that the Commission should discuss the United States report on illicit traffic, for 1945, contained in the confidential document distributed to members of the Commission at the beginning of the session.

/Mr. ANSLINGER

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Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) had no objection but pointed out that the essential feature of this document, dealing mainly with the sources of seized drugs, had already been discussed. The remainder of the report only contained information on individual seizures. He observed that most of the delegates, except the Delegate for the United Kingdom, had failed to submit similar reports at the present session, and hoped that before long a larger number of reports prepared in advance would be available to the Commission.

There were no observations on the paragraph relating to the United States.

Egypt

The CHAIRMAN said that most of the aspects of these paragraphs had already been considered. He drew the Commission's attention to the table illustrating the progress made in Egypt in the fight against illicit traffic and pointed out that the figures demonstrated the high standard of efficiency of the Egyptian control services.

Palestine

There were no observations on this paragraph.

Syria

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) wished to make a statement on the situation in the Middle East. In his view the statements made before the Commission concerning Syria, Lebanon and Palestine were confusing. It had been stated that these countries would adhere to a convention and it had also been stated that they were already bound by existing conventions. He had before him a document which would help to clarify this matter. It stated that the Council of the Arab League had met in Bludan (Syria) in August 1946 and had taken six decisions, on maritime law, commercial law, etc. The last of these decisions proposed the establishment of a uniform system for the control of the narcotic drug
/traffic

traffic. The proposal was to be submitted to the Arab States for ratification, and he felt that the Commission should take careful note of this fact, which was a step of extreme importance for the whole of the Middle East.

Mr. ZAKI (EGYPT) believed that Syria and Lebanon were about to sign the Protocol on Narcotic Drugs and that it would shortly be submitted to the members of the Commission for signature. These two countries would thus be automatically bound by the Conventions in force.

DECISION: Document E/C.S.7/9 was approved as amended.

2. Draft proposal and draft resolution submitted by the Chinese Delegation (document A/C.S.7/14).

Dr. Szeming SZE (CHINA), Rapporteur, wished to make a few remarks on the draft proposal and draft resolution he was submitting to the Commission. In the first place he wished to emphasize that narcotics control was absolutely essential in Japan. The reports had shown the disastrous results of Japanese narcotics policy. Before the war it had been either perfidious or criminal. Entire populations had been poisoned and the Japanese had enriched themselves at their expense. China had not been the sole sufferer, for the scourge had been felt in every country occupied by the Japanese and even by distant countries. China had suffered mainly from the disastrous effects of heroin, but India, though not overrun by Japan, had also suffered from Japanese cocaine and the whole of the Far East might be said to have been affected. The Chinese Government hoped that such a state of affairs would never be permitted to recur.

The second observation he wished to make related to the opportuneness of the present proposal. The peace treaties with Japan were in course of preparation and the Powers concerned, especially those represented at the Washington Conference, were working on the drafts. Here was an unexpected opportunity for proposing the insertion in these treaties of a clause providing for narcotics control in Japan.

/His third

His third point concerned the proposal itself. Its aim was to prohibit the production and manufacture of narcotics and to control imports and normal distribution. Control should be exercised not only by the Japanese authorities but also by international officials. In fact, they must try to perpetuate the policy so successfully applied by General MacArthur.

His fourth remark related to the substance of the proposal, in particular, to the international stockpile designed to simplify the control system. Under the present system about 180 countries could buy narcotics from ninety factories scattered throughout the world. The Chinese Delegation did not wish to infer that this system had failed but the members of the Commission would undoubtedly agree that it had defects and that the Japanese had turned them to their own advantage. It was known that the Japanese Government had prepared two series of documents, one for official use and the other, kept secret, giving an exact picture of the true state of affairs.

He hoped that a recurrence of this situation could be prevented by establishing a new system such as the international stockpile. It would certainly be found useful and if it proved its worth in Japan, it could be extended to the rest of the Far East. It represented a new type of machinery for international control. The Chinese Government looked upon it as an experiment for the Far East which might become a model for other areas. The proposal mentioned a United Nations stockpile. He explained that he had been speaking of an international stockpile, but that he was now proposing a United Nations stockpile. The Chinese Government regarded the United Nations as the pillar of her own foreign policy, but obviously it was for the United Nations itself to decide whether it would undertake such a project.

/Fifthly

Fifthly, referring to the draft resolution, he thought they should have a technical committee to examine the proposal and study carefully all its implications. This could be more easily done by a committee than by the plenary commission.

Finally, the resolution proposed a study of the possibility of applying similar control to Korea. Korea was part of the Japanese Empire and there was every reason to believe that soon it would either become autonomous or be placed under some form of trusteeship. That was a possibility that ought to be kept in mind.

The representative for France, quoting Confucius and his dream of a successful international union, had said that such a union was possible and that the first step should be the establishment of effective control of narcotic drugs. The opportunity was at hand to improve the present system of narcotics control; new problems required new solutions. Now was the chance to insert in the Japanese peace treaties a clause on the control of narcotic drugs and that chance must not be lost.

Mr. GREENFIELD (INDIA) warmly welcomed the draft proposal and draft resolution submitted by the Chinese Delegation. India had not suffered as much as China but it had been affected by the evil activities of the Japanese in the sphere of narcotics, particularly cocaine, large quantities of which had poured into India before the war. During the war this evil had disappeared and the Government of India was anxious that it should not return.

He also felt that the opportunity provided by the peace treaties should not be missed and he agreed that the production and manufacture of narcotics in Japan should be prohibited. At the present stage of their work, he was not in a position to offer definite opinion on the practicability of the proposed stockpile, but it was a scheme which should be carefully considered and India was resolved to co-operate

/in working

in working out and applying such a plan. He was also in favour of the appointment of a special committee of seven and agreed that control measures should be extended to Korea.

Mr. BOURGOIS (FRANCE) recalled that according to available official information and so far as the Central Opium Board knew, the Japanese had used narcotics as a veritable weapon of war. It was natural that they should try now to establish control over so dangerous a weapon, all the more so as it had been used in peace-time.

Mr. ZAKI (EGYPT) thought the Chinese proposal a highly important one and considered that it should not be limited to Japan but applied to the whole world, for otherwise it would be useless. The production of narcotic drugs would simply be transferred from Japan to other territories and they would be going round in a vicious circle. The question should be considered from a wider aspect and the proposal extended to the whole world. The experience of the last war and of former wars showed that the opportunity ought to be seized for there would never be a better one.

He hoped that the Chairman, who for fifteen years had been a member of various bodies concerned with the question of narcotics, would crown his career by achieving this plan. In his view the idea of control and of holding stocks as suggested in the proposal was an excellent one and no organization was better fitted to carry out this plan than the United Nations.

Mr. KRASOVEC (YUGOSLAVIA) agreed in principle to the appointment of a technical committee to study the details of the proposal and especially the question of the stockpile and the extension of the system to Korea. He doubted whether the proposal of the Egyptian Delegate was more practical than the Chinese. China was recommending swift and effective measures which could be inserted in the peace treaty
/with Japan.

with Japan. If the question were considered on a world basis lengthy discussions would result and it was practically certain that no agreement would be reached before the treaty was signed. It was better therefore to keep to the Chinese proposal. As regards the provisions relating to raw materials there would be an opportunity of discussing them when they got a little further on with the agenda and came to the items specially concerned with them.

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) supported the Chinese proposal as a whole and approved the inclusion of restrictive measures in the peace treaties. He agreed to the clause for complete prohibition of the production and manufacture of narcotics. He also approved the proposal to appoint a committee. However, he did not wish to give the impression that he accepted every detail of the proposal outright, and pointed out that he was doubtful about the reception the United Nations would give it. With that reservation he approved the general terms of the document submitted by the Chinese Delegation.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) announced that when the re-establishment of control over narcotic drugs was being discussed he would make a statement on Japanese activities which would give the Commission good reason to examine the Chinese proposal seriously. For the moment he would merely point out that the proposal contained in Paragraph I was already in force as were also those in Paragraphs III, IV, V and VI. He submitted to the Secretariat the text of a ministerial order published in Japan relating to the application of these measures. As regards procedure the best plan would be to refer to the United Nations Legal Committee both the proposal and the question of determining the legal aspects of how far the Technical Committee could go in establishing a stockpile.

/Mr. DELGORGE

Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS) after pointing out that every control system was based on the supposition that governments were honest and did not engage in illicit traffic, emphasized that that was by no means the case with the Japanese and that the ideal way would be to find a means of supervising governments themselves. As regards the details of the proposal he was not in a position to make a precise statement but agreed with the United States and United Kingdom representatives in supporting the proposal to set up a committee.

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) suggested that the Secretariat might be asked to make a detailed study of the question in consultation with its legal advisors.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Canada, associated himself with the remarks of the Indian and United Kingdom representatives and proclaimed his wholehearted support of any system which would provide effective control. He made a reservation, however, concerning the stockpile system, the practicability of which he was inclined to question. He agreed that the Secretariat should obtain the co-operation of the legal experts and thought that the Committee should include not only narcotic experts, but also at least one medical expert. He inquired whether the Commission wished to ask the opinion of the legal experts before or after the Committee was appointed. He suggested that the Committee should be appointed first.

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) proposed that the Committee should be appointed at the present session and the Secretariat asked to consider the legal aspects of the question and forward the findings to the Committee before it met.

Dr. Szeming SZE (CHINA) Rapporteur, noted that the remarks of the Egyptian representative on the scope of the plan accorded with his own suggestion that the experiment might serve as a model for other countries.

/The representative

The representative for Yugoslavia had asked that immediate attention should be given to Japan and Korea: the Committee might study the question of these two countries first and then consider the possibility of setting up other regional systems which could later be incorporated in a single world system.

He had understood the United States representative to refer to consultation with the United Nations Legal Department and the Chinese Delegation had no objection to such consultation, but it would object to any delay which resulted in postponing the question until the next session. The treaties were already drawn up and the drafters were probably awaiting suggestions from the Commission on the subject of narcotics.

He therefore stressed the necessity of appointing the Committee at once. Its appointment would not mean that all the difficulties had been overcome, but it was essential to examine the detailed points of difficulty. He suggested that an ad hoc Committee be set up to consult with the Legal Department of the Secretariat and proposed that the Chairman should proceed that afternoon to appoint seven members to meet as soon as possible. It was to be a select Committee so that its seven members should be chosen from the members of the Commission. He did not support the view that the seven members need be experts.

The CHAIRMAN explained that he had meant medical experts and was, of course, not opposed to their being chosen from members of the Commission, but considered it hardly reasonable to set up the Committee that afternoon.

Mr. GREENFIELD (INDIA) supported the Chinese proposal, but acknowledged that it would be difficult to carry it out. He felt the Committee should be appointed at once and that it could receive the necessary technical advice whilst proceeding with its work.

/The CHAIRMAN

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The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that it had before it a proposal from the Chinese Delegation which required completion and proposed that the time limit for the submission of this proposal for the Commission's vote should be the following afternoon. If adopted he would submit the proposed list of members of the Committee after consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the assistant Secretary-General.

The meeting rose at 1:00 p.m.
