



*United Nations*

E/NL.1950/116-118  
29 December 1950

## **LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

PROMULGATED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS 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

## **ARGENTINA**

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF  
**ARGENTINA**

Lake Success,  
New York, 1950

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with 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, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate hereafter the texts of laws and regulations.

Argentine Republic  
Ministry of Public Health

Buenos Aires,  
25 February 1950  
"Year of the Liberator  
General San Martín"

WHEREAS:

coca-leaf chewing, a habit which has been established for centuries in our country, still constitutes a problem for the health of the Argentine nation, affecting a large section of the population in the North;

the harmfulness of this habit has been proven, even though some of its effects still remain open to question;

this knowledge, and the experience gained since the former National Health Department intervened in the matter, indicate the advisability of studying the matter further, by carrying out some investigations new to this country;

although the intervention of the National Ministry of Public Health to date has succeeded in putting an end to the previous absence of control over the trade in this commodity and restricting annual imports of it to a predetermined quantity, the problem can only be solved through an *ad hoc* body grouping together all the officials required to make an exhaustive study of the matter and assuming the functions of special adviser on the subject;

it would unquestionably be useful to establish such a special Commission and entrust it with the functions necessary for co-operation with other national or provincial bodies, in particular the health authorities of the Northern Provinces of Argentina which are directly affected by the problem of coca-leaf chewing, since subsequent to the promulgation of Legislative Decree No. 31,208/45, Act 12,912, situations have arisen which have had to be settled according to the circumstances, although not in strict conformity with the spirit of the Act;

furthermore, Order No. 20,507 of 19 October 1949 issued by this Ministry provides for the consideration of necessary amendments to the current system;

NOW THEREFORE the Minister for Public Health hereby orders:

Article 1. A Technical Coca Commission is established, for the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the present Order.

Article 2. The Technical Coca Commission shall be composed of the following officials of the National Ministry of Public Health: Chairman, the Technical Director of Social Psychopathology; members, the Director of the Health Code and Legislation, the Director of Food, the Director of Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Industry and the Chief of the Narcotics Control Section.

Article 3. The Technical Coca Commission shall have the following functions:

- (a) to carry out the necessary studies to obtain exhaustive information on the biological and toxicological effects of habitual consumption of the drug;
- (b) to promote the reform of current legislation on the traffic in and use of the drug, with a view to elaborating and proposing a plan for the progressive total elimination of coca-leaf chewing;
- (c) to agree upon the quantity of coca to be imported into the country annually and

its distribution among those importers who were registered as at the date of Order No. 20,507/49 issued by the National Ministry of Public Health.

Article 4. In order to carry out its work the Technical Coca Commission shall establish contact with such provincial and municipal health authorities as it deems fit, and shall be empowered to deal directly with them and to detail members of the Commission to those parts of the country where coca-leaf chewing is most prevalent; it shall also be empowered to contact other similar national or international commissions and likewise to solicit such special advice as it deems necessary, from any organs of this Ministry.

Article 5. The Technical Coca Commission shall, within 90 days, draw up the draft legislation designed to replace that at present in force.

Article 6. For registration, communication by the Directorate-General of the Ministry, publication in the Daily Bulletin and inclusion in the archives.

E/NL.1950/117

Argentine Republic  
Ministry of Public Health

Buenos Aires  
20 March 1950  
"Year of the Liberator  
General San Martín"

In view of the reasons stated by the Director of the Health Code and Legislation, and WHEREAS:

the said reasons are legitimate and render the proposed modification acceptable, the Minister for Public Health in the normal discharge of his functions, hereby decrees:

Article 1. That provision of Order No. 23,134/1950 which establishes that the Director of the Health Code and Legislation shall be a member of the Technical Coca Commission created by the said Order, is hereby cancelled.

Article 2. The Commission referred to in the preceding Article is empowered to solicit the services of the Directorate of the Health Code and Legislation, in an advisory capacity, when it deems necessary.

Article 3. For registration: for publication by the Directorate-General of the Ministry in the Daily Bulletin; for communication to those whom it may concern; and thereupon for inclusion in the archives.

Buenos Aires  
4 July 1950  
"Year of the Liberator  
General San Martín"

Having regard to file No. 41,727/50 and the note contained on page 2 from the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations; and,

CONSIDERING

That in virtue of the international agreements of which the Argentine Republic is a signatory, it is a moral and material obligation to collaborate in all matters concerning the lawful trade in narcotic drugs and in scientific research;

That despite the fact that our country does not at present produce raw opium, the research sponsored by the aforementioned Division of Narcotic Drugs is a matter of interest and that the Directorate of Social Psychopathology is the organ specifically charged with the oversight of such matters;

Now therefore,

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RESOLVES:

Article 1. To authorize the Directorate of Social Psychopathology to establish direct contact with the official of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for the technical co-ordination of research in the field of narcotic drugs at the international level.

Article 2. To authorize the said department to forward to the aforementioned international organ samples of opium produced in the Argentine Republic, for the purposes referred to in the note of 29 March 1950, *in fine*, to the Ambassador of the United States.

Article 3. For registration; for communication as appropriate; for publication in the Daily Bulletin; to be passed to the Directorate of Social Psychopathology for action.

*Resolution No. 25,628*