

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

O.C./Confidential/34

Geneva, May 30th, 1938.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR A CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER THE  
POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING AND CONTROLLING THE CULTIVATION  
OF THE OPIUM POPPY AND THE PRODUCTION OF RAW OPIUM.

Memorandum by the rapporteur Major W.H. Coles (United Kingdom) concerning certain questions of principle which have been raised in the discussions and which require further consideration.

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The Committee will have an opportunity at a second reading of discussing the points covered by the document (Doc. O.C. Confidential 27) submitted for consideration by the Secretariat. It will also discuss the report submitted by the Sub-Committee appointed to consider annexes I and II of that document. It is presumed that the Committee will then take decisions in regard to the principal points which are to be included in the plan for limitation of poppy cultivation and of raw opium production which it will submit to the Opium Advisory Committee.

Meanwhile, certain questions of principle have been raised by different members of the Committee without the Committee having indicated the attitude which it would desire to adopt in its report.

These points are enumerated below and I suggest that they should be discussed at the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee. I shall, with your permission, offer a brief explanation of each point as it is reached, and I hope that members who have raised these points or who wish to express opinions in regard to them, will take this opportunity of acquainting the Committee with their views, so that I may be in a position to carry out the duty of preparing a draft of your report to the Advisory Committee.

I. Question whether limitation shall extend to the cultivation of the opium poppy for purposes other than production of raw opium, in particular the question of the use of poppy straw and capsules as raw material for extraction of morphine.

II. Question of World requirements to which production is to be limited.

III. Question whether the future Convention should contain provisions for determining the level of stocks to be kept in consuming countries.

IV. Question whether the future Convention should contain any provision under which contracting parties in whose countries opium is not at the present time produced, undertake not to commence such production.

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