

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

O. D. C. 20.

SECOND OPIUM CONFERENCE.

Proposals for the consideration of the Conference submitted  
by Governments other than those already circulated  
in Documents C. 548 and A 32.

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AUSTRALIA.

Reference League document C.172.M.47 twenty-sixth March Second  
Opium Conference Australian Commonwealth Government supports  
proposal that in order protect countries undertaking reduction  
countries not at present producing be prohibited planting  
poppy and coca leaf.

S.M. BRUCE.

Prime Minister.

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AUSTRIA.

Translation.

Austrian Representative accredited  
to the League of Nations.  
No. 358.

Geneva,

August 31st, 1924.

To the Hon Sir Eric Drummond, C.B., M.C.M.G.,  
Secretary-General of the League of Nations,  
GENEVA.

..... With regard to the annexed report, I am instructed  
to transmit to you the following observations, which the  
Federal Government desires to make in regard to the  
communications contained in your circular letters C.L.5.1924.XI  
and C.156.M.37.1924.XI.

2.

The Austrian Government is in agreement with the United States Representative's proposal that the cultivation of the poppy and of the coca leaf should be reduced to the quantity sufficient for the requirements of medicine and science, i.e. to the strict minimum required for legitimate purposes, since the object of the International Opium Convention, which is to prevent the abuse of opiates, cocaine, etc., can only be attained by a measure of this kind. The cultivation of these plants, or their use for the production of opium, should not, however, be confined to a restricted number of countries or confined to countries in which opium had hitherto been produced. Such a restriction would, in the opinion of the Austrian Government, confer an unfair advantage on certain producing countries, which would thus obtain a monopoly, while the industry of other countries would be injured.

In the opinion of the Austrian Government, each country should be left to determine the quantity of narcotics required for medical and scientific purposes in its own territory. As regards the calculation of a total for world consumption, the Austrian Government sees no objection to the proposal, on condition that this figure should be drawn up with due regard to the statistics for the requirements of the various countries over a period of several years.

As regards the uniform definition of all the substances falling under the Opium Convention, the Austrian Government agrees to abide by that adopted at the Hague Convention of January 23rd, 1912.

3.

CUBA.

Translation.

Make following proposal regarding practical measures for limiting use narcotics and preventing abuse: world production of opium and narcotics should be exactly proportionate to requirements of each country for medical and scientific purposes estimated on a bona fide basis.

CEBLEDLS.

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Geneva, November 17th, 1924.

N O R W A Y.

Memorandum.  
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The Norwegian Government cannot accede to the provision in accordance with which Governments would have to submit quarterly statistics of the amounts of the substances in question imported and exported by them instead of furnishing an annual report, as has hitherto been the practice.

As pharmacies are specially inspected at regular intervals in Norway and as, moreover, conditions in that country render supervision of the traffic in these drugs an easy matter, the Royal Government is of opinion that the annual statistics are amply sufficient for the requirements of control. There is accordingly every reason to believe that any serious abuse would speedily be discovered. The Government therefore considers that, as regards Norway, quarterly reports- which would, moreover, entail a considerable amount of work- cannot be regarded as necessary.

PART II.

V. The Norwegian Government has no objection to the inclusion of ecgonine.

VI. (Conclusion). The Norwegian Government cannot accede to the proposal for the deletion of the last sentence in Article 10 of the Hague Convention, if that is to be taken to mean that chemists would have to enter in their books, together with the name of the purchaser, each consignment of opium, etc., or of drugs containing the foregoing substances, and to notify the authorities of the facts. Such a provision would be too drastic and is not essential for the purposes of control. It would, moreover, appear to be impracticable.

While dealing with this subject, we desire to state that pharmacies in Norway are regularly inspected by the authorities and that the licence system at present governing the opening of pharmacies in that country is, from the standpoint of control, equivalent to a State monopoly.