



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fourth session

EXPENSES OF THE PERMANENT CENTRAL OPIUM BOARD
ASSESSMENT OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
SIGNATORIES OF THE CONVENTION OF 19 FEBRUARY 1925
RELATING TO NARCOTIC DRUGS

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

1. The Economic and Social Council, at its meeting held on 2 March 1949, adopted resolution 201 (VIII), the last paragraph of which reads as follows:

"Recommends to the Secretary-General that, in consultation with the Permanent Central Opium Board, he prepare plans for assessing signatories of the 1925 Convention who are not Members of the United Nations for their fair share of the expenses of the Permanent Central Opium Board, and submit such plans to the fourth session of the General Assembly."

2. In compliance with the terms of the resolution, the following two alternative methods of assessment were considered:

(i) To follow the method used in assessing the contribution of Switzerland to the expenses of the International Court of Justice, whereby the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions, established the percentage contribution to be paid - this assessment being based on the same principles as are used for the assessment of Member States in apportioning the expenses of the United Nations;

(ii) To divide the signatories to the 1925 Convention which are not Members of the United Nations into broad groups according to relative capacity to pay, as might be determined on a general basis with the statistical information on hand, and assess a flat sum for each group each year, depending on the estimated expenses concerned.

3. Under method (i) the assessments would have to be recommended by the Committee on Contributions. Since, however, the matter could not be submitted to the Committee on Contributions until the General Assembly had given specific directives to that effect, it was thought best, in consultation with the President of the Permanent Central Opium Board, to develop method (ii) so that it could be applied as an interim measure for the year 1950 if the Assembly so desired. A document will be placed

before the Permanent Central Opium Board at its meeting beginning 26 September 1949.

4. In developing method (ii), the signatories involved have been divided into the groups shown below on a unit basis. It is emphasized that, though these groupings have been determined from the same type of statistical data, to the extent available, that is furnished by the Statistical Office of the United Nations to the Committee on Contributions, other factors which are, or might normally be, considered by that Committee are not applied in this determination.

<u>10 units</u>	
Germany.....	<u>10</u>
	10
<u>5 units</u>	
Italy.....	5
Japan.....	<u>5</u>
	10
<u>3 units</u>	
Austria.....	3
Romania.....	3
Spain.....	3
Switzerland.....	<u>3</u>
	12
<u>2 units</u>	
Finland.....	2
Hungary.....	2
Ireland.....	2
Portugal.....	<u>2</u>
	8
<u>1 unit</u>	
Bulgaria.....	1
Ceylon.....	1
Liechtenstein.....	1
Monaco.....	1
San Marino.....	<u>1</u>
	5
Total units.....	<u>45</u>

Based on these same general economic considerations, the above countries should pay approximately 14 per cent of the expenses of the Permanent Central Opium Board.

5. For the purposes of determining the amounts which should be recovered, the estimates of the direct meeting and secretariat costs for 1950 for the Permanent Central Opium Board, as set out in the Budget Estimates for

1950 are as follows:

Section 3 a - Meetings.....	\$39,900
Section 20, Chapter III - Secretariat.....	<u>53,410</u>
	<u>\$93,310</u>

6. Based on the above estimated costs, the countries involved should be requested to contribute approximately \$13,050. One unit would equal \$290, and the amounts by country would be as follows:

Germany.....	\$ 2,900
Italy.....	1,450
Japan.....	1,450
Austria.....	870
Romania.....	870
Spain.....	870
Switzerland.....	870
Finland.....	580
Hungary.....	580
Ireland.....	580
Portugal.....	580
Bulgaria.....	290
Ceylon.....	290
Liechtenstein.....	290
Monaco.....	290
San Marino.....	<u>290</u>
Total.....	<u>\$13,050</u>

7. If the General Assembly decides to approve the method developed above, it is suggested that the amounts shown be requested from the countries indicated for the year 1950, and the scales of future assessments referred to the Committee on Contributions. Alternatively, the General Assembly may wish to take no action at this time, but to refer the entire matter to the Committee on Contributions for consideration at its next regular session, with the understanding that the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions, after approval by the Assembly, would be applied to the 1950 expenses of the Board as well as those of future years. The General Assembly may also wish to consider whether special considerations exist in view of which payment from any of these countries should not be sought.

8. In any resolution which it may adopt on this matter, the Assembly will doubtless wish to note that the allocations made in the present memorandum should not be considered as prejudging any assessments which might later be determined, should any of these countries become Member States of the United Nations.
