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OFFER FOR SALE IN CHINA OF FIVE HUNDRED TONS OF OPIUM

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith, for the information of the Commission, the text of a letter dated 19 October 1950, which he has received from the Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom to the United Nations.

Pursuant to the delegation's request, the Secretary-General transmitted the information in this letter to the President of the Permanent Central Opium Board on 2 November 1950.

Text of the Letter

"....His Majesty's Government have received information that representatives of the Chinese Government have approached the Imperial Chemical Industries (China) Ltd. of Prince's Building, Hong Kong, with the view to disposing of 500 tons of Jehol opium via Hong Kong. This opium, which has been stored in Canton, contains a maximum of 11.8%, minimum of 8.5%, of morphine according to the Shanghai Chemical Laboratory. The representatives have indicated that the Chinese Government are anxious to dispose of the opium by intimating that a suitable buyer shall receive all facilities necessary to expedite the transaction. The Imperial Chemical Industries (China) Ltd. have refused the offer."

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