

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.7/208  
11 October 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Fifth session

Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY ON CHAPTER V  
OF ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949 UNDER 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

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to forward herewith a communication addressed to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by the Government of the Turkish Republic, containing the observations of the said Government in connexion with Chapter V, "Illicit Traffic", of the Turkish Annual Report for 1949 forwarded to the Secretary-General under article 21 of the Convention of 15 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946.

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The Government of the Turkish Republic, in connexion with Chapter V of its Annual Report under the Convention for Narcotic Drugs, dated 13 July 1931, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946, wishes to bring the following to the attention of the members of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

In the reports communicated by the Turkish Government under the Convention of 13 July 1931, in the last few years, the following points will be observed:

- (a) That there has been an appreciable increase in the number of cases of illicit transactions dealt with by the Turkish authorities and in the number of traffickers actually arrested;
- (b) That a large number of these cases are those of clandestine manufacture and distribution of heroin;
- (c) That these cases are concentrated in the Western Provinces and particularly in Istanbul.

The increase in the number of cases reported represents the positive results obtained by the Turkish authorities in their campaign against illicit transactions in narcotic drugs. Although addiction to narcotic drugs is by no means in such proportions as to constitute a social problem in Turkey, the existing measures to prevent illicit transactions in narcotics of all kinds have been strengthened during the last two years and the authorities are pursuing with new vigour the campaign against such transactions. That is actually why the reports show an increase in the number of cases dealt with.

One of the particular aims of this new campaign is to suppress clandestine manufacture and distribution of heroin. The Annual Report for 1950 which is at present under preparation will throw further light on this aspect of the question. In addition to the extensive campaign against illicit manufacturers and traffickers in heroin, other measures have also been adopted for combatting this evil. For instance, steps have been taken with a view to restricting sales of "acetic anhydride", which is used in the manufacture of heroin, and bringing this chemical within the scope of Act. No. 984 regulating the distribution and sales of poisonous and otherwise effective chemicals.

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The Turkish authorities are also making a particular effort in order to suppress traffic in narcotic drugs in Istanbul - the largest seaport of Turkey. The objective is to prevent Istanbul from becoming a centre of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

In the legislative field, new and more effective measures have also been adopted and are being introduced. Among them, the following may be mentioned:

- (a) The provision of article 6 of Act No. 3491 which permitted free trade of opium within Turkey, has been revoked by Act No. 5621, dated 23 March 1950;
- (b) The cultivators of opium are now required to file a declaration in accordance with the said Act No. 5621;
- (c) The purchase and sales of opium within the country has been made an exclusive right of the Office of Soil Products by virtue of the same Act;
- (d) All persons who carry stocks of opium in accordance with the provisions of the previous Act are required to hand over these stocks to the Monopoly by 1 September 1950;
- (e) After 1 September 1950, no one is allowed to hold stocks of opium and all such stocks will be considered contraband;
- (f) The punishments imposed by the previous Act have also been increased.

Although, as it has been pointed out, addiction to narcotic drugs is not a social problem in Turkey, an effort is thus being made to suppress it altogether and to stop illicit transactions in narcotics of all kinds.

The Government of the Turkish Republic is confident that it will have the sympathy of the governmental authorities of all other nations in its endeavours to combat the illicit manufacture and distribution of narcotic drugs, and expects to have their wholehearted co-operation and assistance in this field. One form of such co-operation could be to notify the Turkish authorities, through the shortest and most direct channel, of any cases of seizure of narcotics, particularly opium and heroin, whenever it is believed or suspected that the origin of the narcotics seized is or might be Turkey. If such a communication, giving all the available particulars, is made with the shortest possible delay, it will be a contribution to the extensive campaign which the Turkish authorities have undertaken against illicit transactions in narcotic drugs.

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