

LIMITATION OF THE PRODUCTION OF RAW MATERIALS

(Item 13 (a) of the Provisional Agenda)

Note by the Assistant Secretary-General in charge
of the Department of Social Affairs

The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs has the honour to transmit to the Members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the answer from the Government of the Argentine to the Questionnaire on the Limitation and Control of the Cultivation of the Opium Poppy and Production of Raw Opium, and the Control of other Raw Materials used in the Manufacture of Opium Alkaloids (document E/CN.7/63).

MAY 3 1948

E/CN.7/107

/I. ARGENTINE

I. ARGENTINE

(Letter from the Argentine Delegation, dated 8 April 1948)

"Going over the records of the procedure followed to assemble opinions relative to the International Conference on the limitation of raw material for the manufacture of narcotic drugs, it stands out that the United States Delegate stated that our country (among others) had started to cultivate opium poppy. This cultivation, and the intensification of the production of morphine from poppy stubble justified the importance of maintaining the information up to date, as indicated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom.

"In agreement with the request contained in the attached questionnaire - Part I - the statistical reports given in Charts A, B and D, not so C, since our country does not produce standardized opium destined for export, are enclosed herewith. The factories which are at present licensed to obtain narcotic drugs derived from opium and which have used poppy stubble as raw material, are two: Chemotécnica Sintyal S.A. and Verardo y Cía.

"As to the cost of poppy straw and the cost of transportation referred to in Part II, this Division does not know the economic aspects which may have supervened at the moment of harvesting. The price of the drugs referred to in point ii) is also unknown.

"Part III -A) Control: Since they were dealing with a raw material that could be used to obtain narcotic alkaloids, all the agriculturists who cultivated poppy seed, except in a few cases, made their activities known to the authorities, giving the purposes they had in view, in spite of the fact that they were not legally bound to do so. Those cases which were not notified to the authorities concerned small areas cultivated for experimental reasons. Public Administration, through the Department of Agriculture, intervened in these cases in the fiscalization of the areas, and inspected, periodically, the cultivated areas and their yield.

"There is at present, under consideration by the Congress of Argentina, a proposed law, sent by the Executive power, together with a corresponding message, on the 17 July 1947. This law follows, in general, the principles of limiting the area to be cultivated in accordance with the needs of the country's industry, of limiting the number of agriculturists on the basis of their greater capacity and responsibility, destination, use and price of the yield.

"B) - Poppy seed straw: As a result of the provisions of article 18, Decree No. 126,351/38, which regulates the traffic of narcotic drugs, the
/manufacturers must

manufacturers must communicate all entry of raw material, poppy seed straw being considered as such from that moment on.

"Through previous analysis, raw material is controlled, as well as the final verification of the quantities obtained, which should agree with the theoretical industrial yield, in accordance with the percentage of the elements contained in it.

"C - Generalizations: Since we do not have as yet any provisions of a standardizing nature for these activities, the difficulties that may be foreseen have been taken into consideration in the proposed law already mentioned.

"Part IV. Since the production of poppy seed and raw opium in Argentina does not exceed its industrial needs, Argentina is not faced with the problem of having to substitute its cultivation."

TABLE A - UNTREATED RAW OPIUM

	Total Quantity Ha.	Estimated total Morphine content	Quantity transformed in the country into standardized raw opium
1945-1946	2 15 Kg	1 Kg.	15 kg.

TABLE B - STANDARDIZED RAW OPIUM

	Total quantity produced	Quantity used in the country for manufacture of drugs:
1946	15 Kg (1)	15 Kg. (2)
Notes: (1) 10.93% of morphine		
(2) Non-established the per cent of codeine and tebain.		

TABLE D - POPPY STRAW USED IN MANUFACTURE OF MORPHINE AND OTHER OPIUM
ALKALOIDS, 1937-1946

1945-1946	172 Ha.	Total quantity of poppy straw used in the manufacture of morphine: Kg. 31.000
1947	174 Ha. (2)	Do Kg. 300
1945-46		Total quantity of morphine manufactured from above: 20 Kg. (1)
1945-46		Quantity of morphine manufactured from above used for Domestic needs: Kg. 20
Notes: (1) Four Kg. were manufactured in 1947		
(2) Grown with that purpose but destroyed by adverse climatic conditions.		
