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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE
PRINCIPAL OPIUM-PRODUCING COUNTRIES

The Ad Hoc Committee met at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of
Ankara, Turkey, from 21 November to 7 December 1949

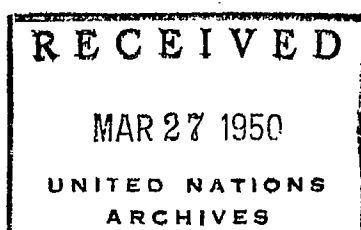


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PERSONS PRESENT

His Excellency Mr. Ali R. Tarhan	<u>Chairman</u>
<u>President of the Turkish Red Crescent Society</u>	
<u>Representatives</u>	
Mr. V.H. Coelho	<u>India</u>
Mr. M. Yunus (Alternate)	
Dr. A. Amini	<u>Iran</u>
Mr. Tabatabay (Alternate)	
Dr. R. Ispahany (Alternate)	
Dr. N. Karabuda	<u>Turkey</u>
Dr. C. Or (Alternate)	
Dr. C. Kiper (Alternate)	
Mr. S. Celebi (Alternate)	
Mr. F. Diker (Alternate)	
Professor C. Tariman (Adviser)	
Professor Vi. Taysi (Adviser)	
Professor K. Koylu (Adviser)	
Mr. A. Cakman (Adviser)	

Mr. M. Gokgol (Adviser)
Mr. H. Balkan (Adviser)
M. V. Gurun (Adviser)
Mr. S. Kayihan (Adviser).

----- Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
Mr. V. Kushevitch Yugoslavia
Mr. D. Nikolitch (Alternate)
Mr. Georgijevski (Adviser)

Observers:

Mr. Jon Ki-Sin China
Dr. M. Labib Egypt
Mr. P. Susini France
Mr. E.S.E. de Jongh Netherlands
Mr. F. T. Merrill United States of
Mr. T. J. Hadraha America

Also present:

Mr. S. Krasovec

Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic
Drugs

Secretariat:

Mr. L. Steinig

Representative of the Secretary-General

Director of the Division of Narcotic
Drugs

Mr. I. Masar

Division of Narcotic Drugs

Mr. P.J. Bolton

Secretary to the Committee

FIRST MEETING

Held on Monday, 21 November 1949, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives and Observers

Also present were: His Excellency Mr. Kemali Bayizit (Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare of the Republic of Turkey), Mr. S. Krasovec (Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs), Mr. L. Steinig (Representative of the Secretary-General, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs), Mr. I. Masar (Division of Narcotic Drugs), and Mr. P. J. Bolton (Secretary of the Committee).

OPENING OF SESSION AND SPEECH OF WELCOME BY THE MINISTER FOR HYGIENE AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

His Excellency Mr. Kemali BAYIZIT, Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare of the Republic of Turkey, declaring open the session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Principal Opium-Producing Countries, welcomed representatives on behalf of the Government of Turkey, and emphasized that, despite its apparently economic character, the work of the Committee could not fail to have wide humanitarian repercussions.

He recalled that, in their efforts to relieve mankind of the miseries caused by the non-medical use of opium, civilised countries had found it necessary, since 1912, to conclude a number of agreements and conventions for the international control of the export, import, and even the distribution, of opium and other dangerous drugs: those instruments had been progressively revised wherever experience had revealed weaknesses in them.

However, despite the limitations and restrictions prescribed by such international treaties, drugs capable of producing addiction were still at their work of destruction. That fact provided ample justification for making a final revision of existing conventions, which might be achieved at the conference for the unification of the relevant existing international instruments which it was proposed to convene at a later date.

He emphasized how lamentable it was that opium, a substance which for thousands of years had helped to relieve the physical sufferings of mankind, should continue to be put to humiliating and degrading uses.

/Expressing

Expressing the firm conviction that international measures to abolish that scourge, which was sapping the health and morale of millions of human beings, would be undertaken in the near future under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council, he said that it was certain that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee would contribute in large measure to the success of future conferences which would have to deal with that grave social problem. He wished the Committee every success in its task.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (Item 2 of the agenda)

Mr. KRASOVEC, Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thanked the Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare for his cordial welcome, and for the laudatory remarks he had made concerning the work already carried out in the field of the international control of narcotics by the Economic and Social Council and its Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Minister had rightly implied that the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee would form the foundation for all future work in that field. He could assure the Minister that all the Governments represented at the session, and the Ad Hoc Committee as a whole, were fully conscious of their responsibilities in the matter.

He wished also to say, with the greatest pleasure, that, as the result of joint consultations between all the representatives of producing countries present, the latter had authorized him to announce that it was their unanimous desire that His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan should preside over the Committee's deliberations.

He therefore declared Mr. Tarhan unanimously elected Chairman.

His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan took the Chair.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

The CHAIRMAN, thanking the Committee for the honour it had done him, recalled that the Committee had been set up, in pursuance of the decision taken on 6 July 1949 by the Economic and Social Council at its ninth session in Geneva, to "consider the possibilities of reaching an interim agreement for limiting the production of raw opium to medical and scientific needs", a task which had been defined in practically the same words as long ago as 1909 at the meeting of the Shanghai Committee.

/He proceeded

He proceeded to review the historical background of the question, mentioning the preparatory measures for convening a conference to deal with the problem, taken in 1931 by the Council and Assembly of the League of Nations, and the opinion expressed in 1936 by the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs of the League, that it was essential that steps should urgently be taken to ensure adequate control of the cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of raw opium.

During the recent war, the Government of the United States of America had addressed notes to opium producing countries, in which it had put forward proposals for promoting the conclusion of an international agreement for limiting the production of opium.

Shortly after the United Nations had taken over the powers and functions previously exercised by the League of Nations in the field of the international control of narcotics, the Economic and Social Council, at its fourth session, had recognized the urgency of the problem. In implementation of the decision then taken, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had addressed a questionnaire to the countries concerned, requesting them to provide statistics, in some detail, relating to the production of raw opium.

Since that time, the problem had assumed ever increasing importance in the discussions in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council. Thus, it had come in time to be explicitly mentioned in the Resolution on the Simplification of Existing International Instruments on Narcotic Drugs (159 (VII) II - D) adopted by the Council on 3 August 1948, which concluded with the following passage:

" This single convention shall replace the above-mentioned instruments relating to narcotic drugs and also include provisions for the limitation of the production of narcotic raw materials."

Finally, he would draw attention to the special resolution adopted by the Council on 3 August 1948 (159 (VII) II - E) which read:

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
REQUESTS the Secretary-General:

1. To initiate studies and inquiries on the desirability of convening a conference of the opium-producing countries and of countries using opium in the manufacture of drugs for medical /and scientific

and scientific needs for the purpose of reaching an interim commodity agreement limiting the production and export of opium to these needs, pending the adoption of an international convention on the limitation of raw materials used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs;

2. To submit the results of these studies and inquiries to the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs."

In accordance with the above request, the Secretary-General had duly provided the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the necessary documentation. The Commission, after a thorough study of the problem, had decided to set up a Sub-Committee, composed of the representatives of India, Iran, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, to consider the desirability of convening the proposed conference and to report back.

The meetings of the Sub-Committee had been attended by representatives of all the countries mentioned, except the Soviet Union, and had resulted in unanimous agreement as to the desirability of reaching an interim agreement for limiting the production and export of raw opium to medical and scientific needs.

In its report, the Sub-Committee had proposed that an ad hoc committee be set up, composed of representatives of the principal opium-producing countries, namely, India, Iran, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia. It had further stated that that Committee should meet as soon as possible during 1949: it had also defined the Committee's terms of reference, and had made suggestions as to subjects which it might usefully consider.

The Sub-Committee had also recognized that the close collaboration of the manufacturing countries was indispensable to the success of the proposed agreement.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to incorporate the recommendations of the Sub-Committee in its Report on its fourth session to the Economic and Social Council. Subsequently, the Council in turn had adopted the resolution he had mentioned at the beginning of his speech.

Such was the historical background of the task confronting the Committee.

He then welcomed individually representatives of the Governments of the producing countries, their alternates and advisers; the observers for other
/Members

Members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; the Chairman of the Commission; and members of the Secretariat.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the Committee would prove successful in its delicate and difficult task, on the outcome of which depended the whole future of the strict and effective international control of dangerous drugs.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN,
the Committee decided to defer consideration and adoption of its agenda (item 1 of the agenda) until the next meeting.

On the further proposal of the CHAIRMAN,
the Committee decided, in principle, to meet each day, except on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN announced that, if necessity arose, the Secretariat would prepare and issue press releases.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

SECOND MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 22 November 1949, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan.

Present: All Representatives and Observers.

Also present
were: Mr. S. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar and Mr. P.J. Bolton.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1 of the provisional agenda)

After a short discussion,
the Committee unanimously adopted the provisional agenda (document
E/CN.7/AC.1/L.3).

CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS CALLED FOR IN PARAGRAPHS 3 and 5 OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS TO CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT FOR LIMITING THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM TO MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC NEEDS (Item 3 of the agenda) (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2): GENERAL STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES.

The CHAIRMAN invited general statements on the methods employed in the respective countries to limit the production of opium, and on any recent developments in the field of control that might prove of interest to the Committee.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) said that he would content himself with describing briefly the important part played by opium in the economic life of his country and the sacrifices which the people and Government of Iran had already made in the campaign against the non-medical use of that substance.

The cultivation of the opium poppy had for long occupied an important place in the economy of the agricultural population of Iran; and that population constituted the most important factor in the general economic life of the country. The fact that the opium poppy was cultivated in the season when water was abundant and the peasants relatively free of other field work made it a valuable source of income to the inhabitants of those regions where both water and manpower were scarce. Similarly, since the introduction of the State monopoly, opium had formed one of the principal sources of income for the Government of Iran, having in 1926 provided 7.5 per cent of total budget receipts. Moreover,
/opium

opium was an important export, having accounted for 16 per cent of all Iranian exports, except petroleum products, in the same year.

Nevertheless, despite such financial difficulties, the Government of Iran had not only taken part in the first international meeting convened to deal with opium at Shanghai in 1909, but had continued since that time to collaborate regularly and effectively with international bodies responsible for the control of the use of opium.

He would not list the numerous laws and regulations which had been promulgated in Iran with the object of controlling the cultivation, sale, purchase and export of opium, or the very strict measures taken to frustrate fraud and smuggling; but he would point out that, in prohibiting the use of opium within the country since 1946, the Government had taken a great step towards wiping out the evil of addiction.

To complete the implementation of that decision, which called for the strictest control, especially of frontiers, the Government intended to strengthen existing legislation for the suppression of fraudulent practices. However, it must be recognized that the success of those efforts would depend in large measure on the close collaboration of those neighbours of Iran which also cultivated the opium poppy, such as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Turkey, Afghanistan and India.

With regard to the limitation of the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, the Government of Iran had always been helpful. In that connexion, he drew attention to declarations made by Iranian representatives at various international conferences, and especially ^{to} the letter addressed by the Iranian Government on 1 June 1926 to the Commission of Inquiry sent to Iran by the League of Nations.

The only reservation which the Government of Iran had consistently made was that Iran should be granted a fair share of the export trade in opium, a reservation which was readily understandable in view of the part opium played in his country's economy.

As he had explained, in certain regions the peasants were dependent on the opium poppy for their livelihood, and in others it was the sole paying crop. Thus, the steps already taken by the Government to limit the production of

/opium

opium had brought the peasant serious hardship, especially as lack of funds and technical resources had prevented the Government from replacing opium by other crops; and the financial loss sustained by the peasant was reflected in an equally heavy loss to the Treasury. In the circumstances of financial reorganization and economic restoration now obtaining in Iran, which demanded considerable sacrifices from the taxpayer, the financial repercussions of any further restriction on exports, and in particular on the production and export of opium, might well provoke serious social disturbances.

He considered that he could therefore claim that Iran was entitled to look to friendly countries for speedy and effective economic assistance, to enable the country to support the progressive diminution of opium production.

The Committee, whose task it was to consider the partition of the world opium market between the producing countries, would do well to take into consideration the economic situation in which each country found itself, and to demand from each a sacrifice compatible with that situation.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) stated that his delegation was in favour of the quota system for exports of opium, and opposed to that of free orders, for a number of reasons.

In the first place, the limitation of production affected the interests of the producing countries alone. It should therefore form the subject of an agreement, based on percentages, between those countries, which should agree forthwith on the percentages. If the quotas were fixed on the basis of a system of free orders, consuming countries would in effect be imposing, on their own conditions, restrictions on producing countries. The quota system undoubtedly provided the most equitable and satisfactory solution to the problem.

If the system of free orders were applied, the producing countries would be powerless to establish either mutual relationships, particularly in connexion with the allocation of shares, or satisfactory relations with consuming countries. Under that system, which had been adopted by the League of Nations and which it was now apparently proposed to revive, importing countries were required to submit to the Supervisory Body estimates of their annual requirements in opium, specifying at the same time the countries from which they desired to draw their imports.

/The Supervisory

The Supervisory Body scrutinized those requirements solely from the point of view of their total volume, approved the estimates if they did not exceed the true needs of the country in question, and fixed the quotas to be allocated to each of the producing countries. Thus, the latter were dependent, so far as their quotas were concerned, on the consuming countries. There was therefore a risk that the absurd situation might arise of the largest opium-producing country's finding itself virtually struck off the list of exporting countries, should the consuming countries, from motives of commercial speculation or for purely political reasons, decline to order their opium from it. It was clear that producing countries could not agree to so inequitable a procedure.

On the other hand, the quota system had the advantages of ensuring to producing countries relatively stable exports over a long period, and, especially, of stabilizing production. It would thus be possible to plan in advance, which would be of benefit, not only to a country with a planned economy such as Yugoslavia, but also to all producing countries. Under the quota system, producing countries would be assured of the possibility of exporting a fixed quantity of opium over a long period, since the export of the quantities allotted to them would be assured, because total world production would be directly proportional to world consumption, and because consuming countries would be obliged to purchase the actual quantities they had specified in their estimates of requirements.

On the other hand, the system of free orders, which was, in effect, in force at the present time, since production was neither controlled nor limited, was incompatible with the principle of controlled production forming part of an overall economic plan, since it resulted in constant fluctuations in the area sown, which in turn gave rise to uncertainty in the field of production, an uncertainty which scotched all serious activity.

Moreover, under that system, not only was it the consuming countries which effectively fixed the size of the shares of certain countries in the opium export trade, but the producing countries themselves had no choice of buyer. Such a system took no account of bilateral agreements, under which the major part of world trade was at present carried on. A producing country could thus be obliged to export, should the Supervisory Body so decide, to a country to which

at that moment it had, for reasons of trade policy, no wish to export. In the final analysis, that amounted to interference in the trade policies of the producing countries.

The Yugoslav delegation considered that it would not be just to place the producing countries, which were already making sacrifices in limiting their production, for humanitarian ends, in such a position of dependency on the consuming countries.

For all the above reasons, his delegation wished to emphasize that in its opinion the quota system provided the only possible basis for a convention relating to the limitation of the production of opium.

The Yugoslav delegation, for several reasons, further considered that it would be proper to take as the basis for allocation of shares in the export trade the average of past exports for legitimate medical purposes. In the first place, such a procedure would ensure producing and exporting countries, in an equitable manner, of a position in the legitimate market identical with that which they had occupied in the past. It was also the most suitable procedure for manufacturing countries, which were accustomed to making their purchases in fixed quantities from the various producing countries. Consequently, the application of that method would entail the minimum of dislocation in the procurements of the manufacturing countries, since there would be no appreciable change in suppliers as compared with the past. Allocation of shares on such a basis would also give manufacturers an opportunity of procuring opium of the quality and from the sources, to which they were accustomed. In that way it would approximate, so far as principles were concerned, to the system of free orders, and would simply maintain the pattern of sales and purchases in the opium trade which had developed spontaneously over a number of years.

A completely different situation would be created if, instead of past exports to the legitimate medical market, some other basis for allocation, for example, the total production of the five principal producing countries, were taken as the basis. In that case, India and Iran, for example, which occupied the leading places as producing countries, would be given the greatest share of the export trade, whereas Turkey, and especially Yugoslavia, which had been the chief regular suppliers of the medical market, would be relegated to second place. Yugoslavia would, indeed, find herself last, although the quality of her opium would certainly not justify that retrogression.

/Similarly.

Similarly, a country producing, for example, 100 tons of opium, but exporting only a small quantity, say 10 tons, would find itself with a share in the export trade exceeding the limited quantity which, as a result of its large internal consumption, it was able to export. It might even be obliged to increase its production, whereas Yugoslavia, for example, would have to reduce hers appreciably. In the light of the aim of the present meeting, which was precisely the limitation, and not the expansion, of production, such a situation would be utterly illogical.

Furthermore, the allocation of shares in the export trade was a very serious responsibility, which could not be properly discharged unless accurate, verified statistics were available. Those relating to exports of opium could be considered reasonably accurate, since they were derived from statistics compiled by the Customs authorities. Should there be any reason to doubt the accuracy of any figure, it could be further checked by comparison with the statistics submitted by importing countries. Statistics for the production of opium, however, like those for agricultural products in general, were based on estimates which could hardly be considered as reliable. Nor could they be verified, particularly in countries with an internal consumption of opium. For that technical reason, production statistics could not properly be taken as the basis for fixing shares either in production or in the export trade.

Total exports for preceding years, that was, exports to legitimate medical markets plus exports of prepared opium, formed an equally unsatisfactory basis for fixing shares. In fact, a very large part of the production and exports of the countries of the Far East had hitherto been consumed by opium smokers. Since it was now illegal to smoke opium or to supply smokers with prepared opium, it was only logical that the production which had hitherto been used for that purpose should cease.

It was obvious that countries thus obliged to curtail their production and exports would thereby suffer economic loss: they could therefore legitimately claim from the United Nations the assistance necessary to enable them to discharge their responsibilities in connexion with the limitation of opium production. But the assistance to which they were entitled should not take the form of shares in the legitimate export market for medical purposes, which would simply mean

/that they

that they would switch over from one branch of the export trade to another. To grant such compensation would be tantamount to applying sanctions against the countries which had hitherto supplied the medical market.

For the reasons he had given, the Yugoslav delegation would be unable to agree to the adoption of figures for total exports of opium as the basis for the allocation of shares in the export market.

His delegation considered that, for the following reasons, figures for exports effected between the conclusion of the Geneva Convention of 1925 and the beginning of the second world war should serve as the basis for allocations.

Since the yield of opium varied considerably from year to year, the normal share of an exporting country in supplying the medical market could only be established on the basis of an average for a number of years. The period after 1941 should not be taken into account, since all international trade, including that in opium, had been dislocated by the war. Thus, the only period which could serve as a basis was that between the first and second world wars, and more particularly the period he had just specified.

However, the period 1925-1940/^{itself} included abnormal years for the opium trade, namely, from 1930 to 1932, at the time of the world economic crisis, and from 1934 to 1938, when the Turco-Yugoslav Bureau for the Sale of Opium had encountered considerable resistance from the "Convention internationale des opiacés" (the manufacturers' cartel), and had been obliged to stock opium instead of exporting it. It was not until 1938 that the opium market had begun to open up again and exports to return to normal. Those facts should be taken into account in determining "average normal exports".

Mr. COELHO (India) had not intended to speak, as the views of the Government of India were fully set out in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2, but, as the representatives of Iran and Yugoslavia had emphasized the economic aspects of the problem, he wished to bring out another and equally important aspect. However, he wished first to bring to the Committee's notice some recent developments in the situation in India.

/In May

In May 1949, at its fourth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had been informed that the Government had adopted a policy whereby the use within the country of opium for non-medical purposes would be reduced by 10 per cent each year, so that prohibition of its use, except for medical and scientific needs, would be complete in ten years. He was glad to be able to report that since that statement had been made, total prohibition, except for medical and scientific needs, had already been achieved in the Province of Assam.

Moreover, a conference of representatives of Provincial, State and Central Governments, held at New Delhi in August 1949, had adopted a series of resolutions relating to the control of opium, which had since been taken up in their entirety by the Central Government.

The first of those resolutions recapitulated the policy of achieving the complete prohibition of the non-medical use of opium during the next ten years, but left each Province or State at liberty to do so sooner if possible.

The second resolution, recognizing that it was highly desirable that the quasi-medical use of opium should also be abolished as rapidly as possible, called on Provincial and State Governments to curtail the distribution of opium even to registered addicts, and recommended that the whole system of such distribution be brought under strict control allowing opium to be supplied for such purposes only on production of a medical certificate.

The third resolution, which referred particularly to the maritime provinces, always a grave source of leakage in opium-producing countries, imposed in all ports and coastal towns immediate prohibition of the use of opium for all but strictly medical and scientific needs.

It was clear that if the recommendations of those three resolutions were to be implemented adequately, a positive policy must be pursued throughout the country, and the Central Government was at present assisting Provincial and State Authorities to frame the necessary administrative regulations.

The Government of India had already totally prohibited exports of opium for other than medical and scientific needs.

Reverting to the second aspect of the problem to which he had referred earlier, he read out the condition attaching to India's participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee (see document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2, page 2, paragraph 5),

/and emphasized

and emphasized that India was keen to hasten the abolition of the quasi-medical use of opium, not merely to appease international opinion, but for the sake of her own national well-being.

With regard to the very important considerations raised by the statements of the Iranian and Yugoslav representatives, he felt that, before the Committee attempted to deal with them in detail, it would be of great benefit if it could hear the views of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the whole problem confronting the Committee, and what he considered the most suitable solution thereof; to his (Mr. Coehlo's) mind there were a number of alternative solutions.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) recalled that in 1933 his country had ratified the Conventions relating to narcotic drugs, and had set up a State monopoly the same year. Since that time the import, export and distribution within the country of narcotic drugs, and especially the export of opium, had been under State control. At the present time, only the domestic trade in opium was free, but a draft bill to remedy that state of affairs had already been tabled in Parliament, after having been approved by the Council of Ministers. Law No. 2253, which had come into force in 1933 and which conformed in spirit with all the provisions of the international Conventions, applied especially to the control of the export of opium. By that law, the cultivation of the opium poppy was limited, a decree being issued each year by the Council of Ministers specifying the regions in which cultivation was authorized. Thus, Turkey had done everything in her power to limit the production of opium, even though that production was of very considerable economic importance to her.

Moreover, Turkey, despite the rights acknowledged by the international Conventions, had broken off all contact with the market for prepared opium several years ago.

Documents, charts and statistics giving a more precise picture of the current opium situation in Turkey would be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

Turkey wished to see the work of the Committee produce positive results. She would be quite satisfied with a quota system for exports, provided

/allocations

allocations were established equitably. He emphasized that his country had never failed to give proof of its goodwill in the application of the Conventions relating to the control of narcotics, although that policy had entailed heavy losses for the population of certain regions, where the soil did not lend itself to the raising of other crops.

If the quota system were adopted, allocations should be made on the basis of the quantities exported by producing countries over the past fifteen years for medical and scientific needs, since deliveries to the market for prepared opium might otherwise well give rise to errors.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) felt that, in view of the detailed analysis of the situation which representatives would undoubtedly expect of him, it would be wiser if he were to make his statement at the beginning of the next meeting.

He wished to inform the Chairman that he had been approached informally by all representatives with the request, which he communicated to the Chairman as their suggestion, that representatives should meet informally that afternoon, to discuss both the points which had emerged from the morning's discussions, and points which had not so far come up in debate.

Mr. COELHO (India) appreciated the attitude of the Representative of the Secretary-General. It might help the latter to prepare his remarks if he were to explain more fully what he had in mind.

Item 4 of the agenda consisted of three sub-items. The problems covered by sub-items (a) and (b) were very closely linked, and, in his opinion, were incapable of thorough analysis or solution until the Committee had a much better idea of the exact type of international purchasing and selling agency envisaged under sub-item (d). He thought the Committee required considerably more guidance from the Representative of the Secretary-General as to the form the agency should take, and he therefore formally proposed that the Committee meet again that afternoon to hear the latter's views.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the afternoon meeting might be limited to that statement, the Committee then adjourning to enable informal discussions to be resumed.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

THIRD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 22 November 1949, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives and Observers except Mr. de Jongh (Netherlands)

Also present were Mr. S. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar and
Mr. P. J. Bolton

CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS, CALLED FOR IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 5 OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS TO CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT FOR LIMITING THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM TO MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC NEEDS (Item 3 of the Agenda)(document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2)
(continued)

Statement by the Representative of the Secretary-General.

Mr. STEINIG (Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs) wished to make it clear from the outset that the views he was about to express were a resumé of the conclusions arrived at by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and, in the final instance, the General Assembly itself.

It was however true that the Commission and the Council, in reaching those conclusions, had taken full account of the views of the Secretariat, which were set out in a number of documents which had been circulated earlier in the year to Members of the Commission. Thus, on pages 25 and 26 of document E/CN.7/W.50 (Unification of Conventions on Narcotic Drugs), the question of the international purchasing and selling agency was dealt with at length; document E/CN.7/W.52, on the desirability of convening a conference for reaching an interim agreement limiting the production and export of opium, discussed in some detail sub-items 4(a) and 4(b) of the Committee's agenda; and the Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fourth session (document E/1361), which had subsequently been approved by the Economic and Social Council, again set forth the Commission's considered views on the purchasing and selling agency.

Before taking up the points raised by the representative of India at the preceding meeting, he wished to make a few general observations.

/1. General

1. General Observations.

In the first place, as the Chairman had pointed out in his opening address, the problem with the solution of which the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, had charged the Committee was by no means new. It had first been tackled forty years earlier, when conditions had been very different, in that the market in raw opium had not been limited internationally by any legal or administrative stipulations. Since that time, attempts to solve it had hardly proved successful; but events had achieved a limitation of the opium market where man had failed to do so.

Before the second world war there had been two large legitimate markets for opium: the drug manufacturing market, and the Far Eastern opium monopolies, which had been operated in conformity with treaty requirements. Of the some 820 tons of opium per year which had made up the legitimate trade between the two wars, approximately one half had gone to the Far Eastern monopolies. But during the second world war the countries operating those monopolies, which had been producing prepared opium for smokers, had decided to cease their activities. Thus, half the legitimate market for opium had been done away with at one stroke.

Further, the second world war had seen the appearance of synthetic analgesics, the action of which closely resembled that of morphine or heroin. Such drugs were beginning to replace those made from opium, and were thus further reducing the market.

A third factor tending to limit the opium market was the introduction of the process, first applied commercially in Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1933, for extracting morphine from poppy straw. That process had subsequently been taken up by a number of other countries.

But despite those developments, the hope which had been widely entertained some five or six years previously, that opium would disappear as a raw material as soon as the war was over, had been frustrated. The use of opium had in fact been increasing since 1945.

That increase was certainly in part the result of the improved social welfare services now being provided in many countries, and the consequent growth of the use of analgesics generally. But it was at least equally due to the fact that no synthetic substitute for either codeine or dionine had so far been discovered. Of some 50,000 kg. of morphine manufactured yearly since the end

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of the second world war, more than 80 per cent had been used for subsequent conversion into codeine and diionine. Therefore, until synthetic substitutes for the two last-named drugs had been evolved, and no one could say how long that would take, opium would continue to be used for the manufacture of morphine.

The discovery of synthetic codeine or a synthetic drug which could be substituted for codeine would be the beginning of the end of the use of opium for the manufacture of drugs; opium would then probably continue to be used only for the preparation of medicinal opium, and the total world requirements for that purpose would, so far as was at present known, amount to between 35 and 42 tons a year.

The time thus seemed to have come for man to wrest the initiative from events in bringing about, by direct and well conceived action, the limitation of the production and the distribution of opium to medical and scientific needs.

Whenever government representatives came together to discuss the limitation of the production and export of opium, they naturally complained that such limitation would entail sacrifice and hardship for their countries. That was true, but was it not the price which must be paid for the suppression of the illicit traffic and the abolition of the evil of addiction?

The drug manufacturing countries had already consented to accept sacrifices and limitations of their activities in acceding to the 1931 Convention. It was time for the producing countries to follow suit. There should, of course, be no unilateral sacrifice, but a just distribution of burdens between all the countries interested in the opium trade. He would further remind representatives that, should the work of the Committee prove fruitful, the manufacturing countries, in order to make the new instrument workable, would have to consent to accept further obligations.

The 1925 Convention had been an attempt to effect control by regulating the international trade through a system of import and export licences; had that Convention been strictly applied, no further international instrument would have been required.

With the conclusion of the 1931 Convention, which related only to manufactures drugs, and not to raw materials, there had been added to the initial system of trade control a quantitative and qualitative legal restriction, to medical and scientific needs, of the manufacture of narcotic drugs. Seventy-one countries had acceded to that Convention, which entailed a not inconsiderable

/limitation

limitation of their sovereignty; for example, failure on their part to provide the estimates which formed the basis of the system of control gave the Supervisory Body the right to estimate for them with legally binding effect.

Moreover, the signatories to the Convention had voluntarily agreed to the application of far-reaching automatic sanctions, whereby any country exceeding its estimated requirements was subject to an immediate embargo, which required all other signatories to cease trade forthwith with the offending country in respect of the drug concerned. Since the Convention had come into force in 1934 the embargo had been successfully applied in 57 cases.

There were, of course, differences between the drug manufacturing countries and the opium producing countries. Whereas the process of industrial manufacture was susceptible of the strictest control, cultivation, which was dependent on natural factors such as weather and the failure of crops, was not. Moreover, there were considerable social, economic and administrative differences between the two groups of countries.

Nevertheless, in view of the failure of the 1925 Convention to solve the problem, those difficulties must be overcome if a successful agreement was to be negotiated. The Committee had before it an excellent precedent and model in the 1931 Convention, which might well be adapted to present requirements.

With regard to the procedure to be followed in negotiating the new agreement, it would have been possible, as with other international conventions, to convene a conference of all the signatories to the earlier Conventions. That had proved impracticable for two reasons, both of which had been stressed in the discussions in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in the Economic and Social Council.

First, the problem of the limitation of the production of raw opium was the most difficult in the whole field of the control of narcotics. Secondly, a vital pre-requisite to the negotiation of a new convention was that the producing countries should reach agreement between themselves on sub-items 4(a), 4(b) and 4(d) of the Committee's agenda. Only if such agreement were realized would it be possible to proceed to the second stage, that of consultations between the principal producing countries and the manufacturing countries, which would in turn have to reach precise agreement on a number of very important points.

Thus, the Committee's immediate objective should be to elaborate a basis

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for a preliminary agreement covering a period of, say, three to five years, pending, and he must emphasize that implication, the adoption of the single convention.

2. Determination of world requirements of opium.

Turning to the points specifically raised by the representative of India, he said that any producing country was clearly fully entitled to ask how world requirements of opium for medical and scientific needs would be arrived at. In the Secretariat's view, the method used in the 1931 Convention should be employed. All consuming countries, regardless of whether they were also producers, would be required to submit, in advance, estimates in respect of each year; the total of those estimates would give the world requirements. There was, however, one important reservation. Whereas no irreparable harm was caused by a country's over-estimating its requirements of manufactured drugs, over-estimation of requirements of opium would have serious repercussions, in view of the fact that there was only one period, or, in exceptional cases, two periods, in the year during which opium was produced. It would therefore be necessary, in order to remove any possible uncertainty as to the accuracy of the estimates of requirements, to devise means of securing from manufacturing countries firm estimates in the nature of advance orders. There was also the converse difficulty, the uncertainty of the exact size of the opium crop each year. He would not go further into those difficulties at the moment, but they could and must be overcome satisfactorily.

3. Allocation of exports of opium.

The method of allocating exports of opium (sub-item 4(b) of the agenda) was admittedly the crux of the problem confronting the Committee.

The underlying conception of any new agreement must be that, once world requirements for medical and scientific purposes had been established, exports would be held to that figure.

At the second meeting (see document E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.2) the Yugoslav representative had outlined the merits and drawbacks of each of the two systems of allocating shares described in the recommendations drawn up in 1939 by the League of Nations, namely, that of free orders, and the quota system. The general consensus of opinion among interested parties seemed clearly to favour the latter.

/After a lapse

After a lapse of ten years, however, that system, evolved in 1939, seemed to be clumsy and difficult of precise application. He would content himself with describing one particular difficulty which it entailed for the Supervisory Body.

The action required of the Supervisory Body was twofold. It had first to establish world requirements, and then to split up that quantity on the basis of previously agreed shares. The matter was, however, complicated by the fact, which he had already mentioned, that, when submitting their estimates, consuming countries were entitled to indicate, in order of priority, the producing countries from which they desired to draw their opium. It might thus happen that in the case of a producing country entitled to export 120 tons of opium, first priority purchases amounting to 150 tons would be specified by the manufacturing countries. It would then be necessary to scale down pro rata the orders involved, and to allocate the outstanding 30 tons to countries of second, or even third, priority. Such a process would be very unwieldy, had it to be applied in a number of cases. It was in the light of such possible complications that the Secretariat felt that the introduction of an international purchasing and selling agency would be a great improvement.

Two methods of arriving at allocations of exports were open to the Committee.

Each of the countries represented in the Committee knew in its own mind, on the basis of its past experience, just what share it could justifiably expect under the new agreement. Why not put forward those percentages frankly, as a basis for negotiation, without recourse to statistics? Naturally, the fact that one producing country was not represented at the meeting would have to be borne in mind, and means found of allotting a share to it and of reserving a place for it in the export trade.

Should the procedure he suggested give rise to difficulties, making it impossible to reach agreement, representatives could always fall back on statistics. But the question would then arise, what figures should be taken as a basis for negotiation? Total exports, or exports to drug manufacturing countries only?

He emphasized that it was for the Committee itself to choose between the two procedures. Neither the Commission, the Council nor the General Assembly had issued any directives on that point. But it was the Secretariat's opinion that the first would prove the more effective.

/Should, however,

Should, however, the Committee decide to proceed on the basis of statistics, the Secretariat had produced for its guidance, in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.1 a series of tables giving production and export statistics for the period 1934-1948. In compiling those statistics, special account had been taken of the difficulties, to which attention had been drawn by the Yugoslav representative, experienced by that country during the war years. Although they did not go back to 1925, he thought that the Committee would find the statistics accurate and useful.

4. Creation of Government monopolies.

With regard to sub-item 4(c) of the agenda, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had come to the conclusion that it was necessary to set up in all producing countries Government monopolies with identical powers, functioning on the same general lines.

True, monopolies already existed in the four countries represented at the meeting, but they differed widely in their structure. Whereas some covered every phase of the opium trade from cultivation of the poppy to the entry of the opium into the market, others permitted private intermediaries to buy direct from producers. The difficulty would be to reconcile those differences, but it could be done.

5. International purchasing and selling agency.

The idea of setting up an international purchasing and selling agency was not so new as might appear at first sight. At various times in the history of the international control of narcotics, international conferences and the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations had discussed the creation of such institutions as an international monopoly, or international factories for the manufacture of drugs.

Although at the present time commodity agreements were being concluded in increasing numbers, the agreement which it was hoped the Committee would reach should not be of that type, since it had been proposed, not for economic, financial or commercial reasons, but out of social and humanitarian motives. Since it was easy to conceive of the principal manufacturing countries setting up a joint buying agency and the principal producing countries a common selling agency, and of those two agencies subsequently establishing mutual relations, it was
/natural to

natural to assume that such a single agency might well be set up under the aegis of the United Nations. Such action would have the great advantage that the agency could then be operated on a non-profit-making basis, and in such a way as to facilitate the limitation of production and the control of the distribution of opium.

The advantages of establishing such an agency, which would enjoy the exclusive right of purchase from the Government monopolies, would be the elimination of competition between producing countries, the elimination of pressure exerted by consuming countries, and the elimination of political influences from the opium trade. It would offer maximum stability to all concerned, and a sound and equitable price to both producing and consuming countries. It would circumvent certain of the difficulties inherent in the quota system, while preserving its essentials. During the life of the interim agreement, each producing country would enjoy a fixed export quota, and would be bound to sell direct to the agency all opium covered by that quota.

From the manufacturers' point of view, the agency would have the advantage of ensuring the availability of supplies in respect of both quality and quantity, regardless of harvest or market fluctuations, and of eliminating speculative price increases and political influences. Moreover, if an invariable price could be fixed for, say, two or three years, manufacturers would be enabled to budget more easily and more accurately for several years in advance. Technical advisers held out hope that it might prove possible in the course of time to evolve a standard international brand, or brands, of opium. That too should prove an advantage to manufacturing countries.

From the point of view of the suppression of the illicit trade, all opium found outside the agency would automatically be deemed illicit. There again, modern techniques of determining the origin of opium by physical and chemical means suggested that it might shortly prove possible to identify the source of opium seized in illicit traffic with reasonable accuracy.

Difficulties of another kind were, of course, associated with the setting up of an international agency. The Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had just drawn his attention to the fact that some producing countries had bilateral trade agreements with other countries, under which they were bound to deliver opium. That question would obviously require careful consideration, but it was not out of the question that a single treaty might
/be devised,

be devised, to which all the countries concerned would adhere, to replace the existing bilateral agreements.

With regard to the structure, powers and functions of the international agency, two organizational forms could be envisaged. The first would be very simple in structure, would confine itself to buying, storing and distributing opium, and would be run by international officials carrying out the direct instructions of the competent organs of the United Nations. It would in no way be concerned with fixing either quotas or prices. It should prove inexpensive and simple to run.

The other type of agency would be entrusted, in addition to the foregoing duties, with the task of fixing prices and quotas. That would at once greatly complicate its structure and operation. There would undoubtedly have to be a governing or executive board composed of representatives of the Governments of all principal producing and consuming countries, the rules of procedure of which, especially its voting procedure, would have to be most meticulously laid down, to eliminate any possibility of a majority vote on the price of opium being carried to the detriment of any one of the countries concerned. It might, of course, be possible to appoint an impartial chairman of the governing board, but even that would not necessarily guarantee that the board would always reach agreement.

The whole question required careful study, but he wondered whether representatives could not themselves examine the possibility of fixing for a short period of two to three years a stable, ne variatur price for standard opium (for example, anhydrous opium containing 10 per cent of morphine), equated against gold, or some other staple commodity.

Mr. COELHO (India) expressed his gratitude to the Representative of the Secretary-General for his valuable statement.

Mr. AMINI (Iran), associating himself with the remarks of the Indian representative, proposed that the Committee adjourn until Thursday morning, 24 November, to give representatives an opportunity of studying in detail the statements made that day.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey), also associating himself with the Indian representative, supported the Iranian proposal.

/After a brief

After a brief discussion,
the Committee unanimously adopted the proposal of the representative of Iran.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the Committee had disposed of item 3 of the agenda. Sub-item 4(a) would therefore be taken up at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

FOURTH MEETING

Held on Thursday, 24 November 1949, at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives and Observers

Also present were: Mr. S. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar
and Mr. P. J. Bolton

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS
TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the Agenda)

(a) Methods of determining world requirements of opium for medical and
scientific reasons

At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN,

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) gave a brief review of the problem and stated that in order to be able to limit the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, it was clearly necessary to know those needs as accurately as possible. In the case at issue, two methods of determining them could be envisaged, namely, an indirect method based on the estimates of needs in morphine furnished by Governments in accordance with the 1931 Convention, and a direct method based on estimates of needs in opium furnished by the consuming countries themselves.

By the provisions of the 1931 Convention, every country and dependent territory was required to furnish on 1 August each year an estimate of its legitimate needs for the following year. If, for any reason whatsoever, those estimates were not provided, the Supervisory Body was authorized itself to frame estimates of a binding character, regardless of whether the countries concerned were or were not parties to the Convention. On 1 December each year, the Supervisory Body drew up a table giving, against the name of each country, the estimates of needs by categories.

In the case of morphine, a distinction was made between the consumption of morphine as such on the one hand, and the consumption of morphine after conversion into codeine, dionine or heroine on the other. Knowing the morphine content of the opium, on an average between 11.75 and 12 per cent, it was possible
/to calculate

to calculate the quantities of opium required for the manufacture of morphine, starting from the estimates of world needs in morphine.

In that connexion, he observed that the estimated needs in morphine for 1950 amounted to 74,600 kg., of which only 8,000 kg. would be used in the form of morphine, the remainder being intended for conversion into codeine, diionine etc.

It should also be noted that during the past fifteen years the quantities of morphine used (8,000 to 9,000 kg. a year) had not varied much. After the entry into force, in 1929, of the 1925 Convention, the average yearly production of morphine had been reduced from 60,000 kg. to 29,000 kg. for the period 1931-1935, whereas in 1950 it would amount to 74,000 kg., although the use of morphine as such had not increased.

The figure of 74,000 kg. of morphine could be taken as equivalent to approximately 620 tons of opium. However, it should be borne in mind that estimates submitted by Governments had been written up by from 15 to 20 per cent, and that the figure of 74,000 kg. could accordingly be reduced to 62,000 kg., which corresponded to about 520 tons of opium. However, that figure did not represent the total volume of world trade, since countries such as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia and India, among others, made some use, in the manufacture of drugs, of opium produced locally which in consequence did not appear in the statistics for international trade. In those circumstances, it should be assumed that the volume of international trade amounted to about 450,000 kg. of opium.

He thought that such an indirect method of framing estimates would be unsatisfactory if it was desired to reach an agreement enabling the production and export of opium to be effectively limited to strictly medical and scientific needs. It would therefore be necessary, in his opinion, to confer on the estimates the status of "advance orders", which would be to some extent binding on Governments.

It should further be pointed out that the estimates were drawn up some five months in advance in the case of manufactured products, whereas estimates of needs in opium would have to be submitted at latest on 15 March in the year preceding that to which they related. In practice, if the poppies were sown during the month of September, cultivators would have to be advised as early as May of the area which they were permitted to sow, and the Supervisory Body would therefore have to be in possession of the estimates during the month of March, to

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enable it to communicate with the producing countries in April at latest.

The international purchasing and selling agency would have to maintain an emergency stock of opium, in view of the facts that, on the one hand estimates would never coincide exactly with needs, and on the other the result of the opium harvest would always be problematical.

In conclusion, he emphasized the advantages offered by the direct method of determining legitimate needs in opium.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) was prepared to accept, on behalf of his Government, the direct method advocated by the Representative of the Secretary-General.

Mr. GOEHLO (India) also supported the suggestion of the Representative of the Secretary-General, and submitted to the Committee a proposal stipulating, among other things: that the estimates to be submitted should relate, not only to needs in raw opium for medical and scientific purposes, but also to needs for other approved uses; and that the needs of a country for manufacturing purposes which it was intended to cover from domestic production should not have to be communicated to the international authority whose task it was to assemble the statistics.

Mr. KUSHEVITCH (Yugoslavia) stated that his delegation also was prepared to accept the direct method of arriving at estimates, but that it reserved its position in respect of the proposal submitted by the representative of India until that proposal had been circulated to delegations in writing.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) supported the remarks made by the Yugoslav representative with reference to the Indian proposal, and requested that all proposals should be submitted to the Committee in writing.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) feared that the proposal made by the Indian representative might not conform with the very precise terms of reference given to the Committee by the Economic and Social Council, which made no mention of other approved uses. He suggested that, in order to give due consideration to the reasons underlying the proposal of the

/representative

representative of India and to the special situation of that country, it would be preferable to include a specific provision of a temporary nature, rather than to insert a general clause in the instrument.

Moreover, it was clear that in order to determine world production it would be essential to know the total production of all countries, regardless of whether they were producing or consuming countries.

After a short exchange of views,

it was decided that the next meeting should take place on Monday, 28 November, in order that members of the Committee might have an opportunity of studying the question thoroughly.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

FIFTH MEETING

Held on Monday, 28 November 1949, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan
Present: All Representatives and Observers
Also present were Mr. S. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar and
Mr. P. J. Bolton

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS
OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the agenda) (continued).

(a) Methods of determining world requirements of opium for medical and
scientific needs (continued).

Mr. COEHLO (India), introducing, on behalf of his delegation the text
of his proposal relating to item 4 (a) of the agenda (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.5), drew
the attention of the meeting to the fact that in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph 5
the words "by the international purchasing and selling Agency" had been inserted
in error, and should therefore be deleted.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) was prepared to support the Indian proposal
provided, however, that a provision was inserted in paragraph 1, whereby
countries which were simultaneously producers of raw opium and manufacturers
of drugs would also be required to submit to the co-ordinating Authority esti-
mates of the quantities of opium required for their internal consumption.

Mr. COEHLO (India) saw no objection to the inclusion of such a
provision, but considered it superfluous, since the idea underlying it was
already implicit in the text of paragraph 1. In those circumstances, the
Turkish delegation might perhaps find it possible not to press for express
mention therein of producing countries.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) still felt that the inclusion of such a
provision would eliminate all risk of future misunderstanding, but was prepared
to abandon his proposal provided all other delegations considered that the

/original text

original text was sufficiently explicit. He would nevertheless like first to hear the views of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the point.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) thought that the text proposed by the representative of India allowed for no exceptions whatsoever, and applied equally to all countries, whether producers or importers. Every country, no matter what its category, which required opium would have to submit appropriate estimates. The remark of the representative of Turkey might perhaps be considered as an interpretation of the text; he thought therefore that, provided it was mentioned in the summary records and report of the Committee, there would be no need to incorporate the Turkish proposal in the text before the meeting.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) expressed his agreement and withdrew his proposal.

Mr. KUSHEVITCH (Yugoslavia) also supported the Indian proposal. In his opinion, all countries, even those producing raw opium, should submit estimates of their requirements. However, in establishing quotas for exports of opium, the quantities of opium produced within a country and used therein for the manufacture of drugs should not be taken into account, since they did not enter into the international trade.

Further, he reserved the right to revert to the question of the international purchasing and selling Agency when the Committee came to consider item 4 (d) of the agenda. He would also like some further information regarding the co-ordinating Authority referred to in the Indian proposal.

Mr. COEHLO (India) replied that the adoption of his text would in no way prejudice the discussion on item 4 (d). Since the question of the co-ordinating Authority was also bound up with the consideration of that item, he suggested that its discussion be likewise deferred.

Mr. KUSHEVITCH (Yugoslavia) agreed.

/Mr. KARABUDA

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) observed that, in view of the special situation of his country, the Government of Turkey would have to know the amount of world requirements in raw opium in the month of March, or, at the latest, September, of the year ante-precedent to that, to which they referred. Failure to provide such information in good time would entail serious difficulties for his Government.

Mr. COEHLO (India) explained that the principal object of his proposal was to formulate a method for determining estimates. The method by which the co-ordinating Authority could pass that information on to the Governments of producing countries would be discussed when the Committee took up points 4 (b) and (d) of the agenda.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) associated himself with the remarks of the representative of India.

The CHAIRMAN then put the Indian proposal to the vote.

The Indian proposal (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.5) was unanimously adopted.

(b) Methods of allocating exports of opium.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) said that his delegation was in favour of the quota system for allocating exports of opium; but he thought that before the Committee decided on a basis for working out the share to be allotted to each country, it would be useful if he were briefly to review his country's opium export policy over the past 20 years.

Although it had not acceded to the 1925 and 1931 Conventions, Iran had respected their provisions by agreeing that her exports of opium to such countries as Indo-China and Siam, where opium monopolies had then been operated in conformity with the terms of the Conventions, should be made conditional on the issue of import licenses.

Moreover, following the conclusion of the 1925 Convention, the Iranian Government had endeavoured to find alternative markets in Europe and the United States of America; however, the great distance separating Iran from

/those countries

those countries, the latter's traditional practice of purchasing Turkish and Yugoslav opium, and, finally, prohibitive United States import duties, had combined to frustrate her efforts.

Not until 1934 had Iran succeeded in opening in France an office for the sale of her opium, whereby she had finally secured a place in the German, United Kingdom and other European markets, a development which was clearly reflected in certain of the statistics published by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, based on information provided by importing and manufacturing countries. In actual fact, total Iranian exports of opium for medical and scientific needs, which had amounted in 1934 only to 64,211 kilograms, had risen to 100,876 kgs. by 1935, and to no less than 169,637 kgs. in 1937; later, the outbreak of war had halted further progress.

In view of the existence of legal markets for prepared opium, and taking due account of Iran's place as a major supplier of those markets, of her geographical situation, and of her ordinary commercial relations with the other countries concerned, he must state categorically that it would be impossible for his delegation to agree to the adoption of any system of allocating quotas which failed to take into account exports of opium for the use of opium smokers. Despite what the Yugoslav representative had said at the second meeting, there was no real incompatibility between the Committee's objective and the adoption, as a basis for the allocation of quotas, of the total opium exports of each producing country. He did not believe that Turkey, or even Yugoslavia, would be seriously affected by the adoption of such a basis, whereas the economic situation of Iran would be seriously impaired should the method of allocating quotas proposed by the Yugoslav representative find favour with the Committee; and he was certain that, in convening the Committee, the Economic and Social Council had had in mind the economic difficulties which any decision to limit the cultivation of the opium poppy to medical and scientific needs would entail for each producing country.

He therefore felt that there could be no objection to the adoption of his scheme, which would impose fair sacrifices on all concerned, pending the working out of a completely equitable solution.

The Committee was meeting chiefly because the 1925 Convention had failed to produce the results expected of it. It should therefore take especial care

/not to

not to commit fresh errors in drafting the articles for any new international agreement, the success of which would be irreparably jeopardized if representatives insisted on the positions enjoyed by their Governments in the past.

In the absence of further comment on this point, the CHAIRMAN recalled that the question of the allocation of exports was still the subject of informal exchanges of views. He therefore suggested that its further discussion be deferred to a later meeting.

It was so agreed.

(c) The establishment of Government monopolies and the limitation of the production of opium.

Mr. AMINI (Iran), pointing out that Government monopolies already existed in all producing countries, asked the Representative of the Secretary-General to explain why the establishment of Government monopolies had been included in the agenda.

Mr. COEHLO (India) supported this request.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) agreed that there was a Government monopoly in each producing country, but emphasized that those monopolies differed, sometimes considerably, from one another, in respect of their structure, status, organization, method of operation, and even scope. Thus, for example, whereas certain of them exercised, according to the law, absolute control, extending from the cultivation of the opium poppy up to and including the trade in opium, both domestic and international, others had a more limited field of activity, and recognized private intermediaries or private trade.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council had considered that the Government monopolies should have a structure enabling them to make an effective contribution to the limitation of the production, and to the control of the distribution, of opium. If that object was to be

/achieved,

achieved, the monopolies would have to be, if not identical, at least very similar in respect of their essential characteristics. It was for that reason that consideration of the problem had been included in the Committee's agenda, and it was necessary that the Committee should state an opinion on the subject.

Furthermore, the efficient operation of the international Agency would be entirely dependent on the closest possible similarity between the structure of the various Government monopolies. Such similarity was therefore essential.

He added that, although not authorized to submit proposals, the Secretariat could nevertheless place at the disposal of the Committee its views on the subject, should representatives so desire. He then outlined the general principles which might serve as a basis for an article relating to Government monopolies (see document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.8).

Mr. AMINI (Iran) thanked the Representative of the Secretary-General for his statement, and expressed his agreement with his suggestions. He added that there was already in his country a monopoly which conformed, in broad outline, with the proposed requirements.

Mr. KUSHEVITCH (Yugoslavia), for his part, emphasized that the Yugoslav monopoly covered all phases of the trade, and exercised control over sown areas, and the sale, purchase and warehousing of the opium, as well as over the production of alkaloids; in those circumstances, he too could accept, in their broad outlines, the views expressed by the Representative of the Secretary-General.

Mr. COEHLO (India) also expressed agreement with the views expressed by the Representative of the Secretary-General.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) stated that the Turkish monopoly had been in operation since 1933. However, since there must of necessity be certain differences in structure between the monopolies of the various countries, it would be well to study the conditions which they would be called upon to fulfil.

/He therefore

He therefore suggested that consideration of the question be deferred to the next meeting, in order to enable delegations to go into the question more thoroughly, so that they could submit constructive proposals.

It was so agreed.

(d) Establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) said that his delegation considered that an international purchasing and selling Agency with commercial functions would be of benefit to producing and manufacturing countries alike, and would also assist the bodies responsible for international control in their task of suppressing illicit traffic.

Producing countries would find themselves with an assured and stable market for their opium, would derive general advantages from the stabilization of the conditions of its sale, and would be relieved of the threat of competition in the world market.

Manufacturing countries, for their part, would be able to secure the opium they required, guaranteed in respect of quantity and quality, at a steady price, and would be protected from any risk of under-production resulting from a poor harvest.

Moreover, since any opium found outside the Agency would be at once deemed illicit, centralization of the opium trade in an international Agency of the type envisaged would eliminate the unhappy competition which was at present one of the chief factors favouring illicit traffic.

It was now for the Committee to lay down the duties of the proposed Agency; he considered that they were threefold.

First, the Agency should sell to manufacturing countries the opium required by them for their medical and scientific needs, in accordance with a fixed standard, and in conformity with estimates drawn up by the Agency, which would be in a position to determine the amount to be sold to each country.

Secondly, in order to enable it to meet the requirements of consuming countries forthwith, the Agency should be obliged, as soon as it was set up, to take over all stocks of opium in the possession of producing countries.

/Finally,

Finally, in view of the impossibility of estimating the exact quantity of opium which would be produced from a given sown area, the Agency should be obliged to purchase each year the total production from each producing country. It should also be required, wherever total production considerably exceeded the quantity permitted, to ask the authorities of the country concerned for an explanation of the increase.

His delegation had submitted to the Committee a proposal in which the general ideas underlying the constitution and function of the international purchasing and selling Agency were succinctly set out (see document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6).

It remained for the Committee to find a solution to the important problem of determining, equitably and precisely, the price which the Agency should pay for the opium it bought. His delegation was of the opinion that that price should not be fixed without the prior consent of each of the producing countries.

Mr. COELHO (India) had listened with close attention to the reasons which, in the opinion of the representative of Iran, favoured the establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency, but felt that the Committee should be careful not to lose sight of its ultimate objective, namely, the suppression of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. That aim could be achieved either through national bodies, that was, the Government monopolies, or through international bodies. In the view of the Government of India, the first class body was the better suited to wage battle against the illicit traffic; if the national organization did not succeed in suppressing that evil themselves, it was hardly to be expected that an international Agency would succeed in doing so. The Indian delegation therefore considered that there was no need to proceed to the hasty establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency. In his opinion, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was more competent to deal with that problem, although the Ad Hoc Committee could, if it so desired, make appropriate recommendations to the Commission.

In his view, the establishment of such an agency would be tantamount to creating a commodity monopoly, which he considered would be undesirable. Moreover, there existed a traditional pattern of trade between the various countries concerned, which the proposal before the meeting failed to take into

/account

account. That was one more reason for leaving consideration of the problem to the Commission.

The above considerations had led the Indian delegation to submit an amendment (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.7) to the Iranian proposal. The new text defined the powers of the co-ordinating Authority, but, since the latter would have to include representatives of the manufacturing countries as well as those of producing countries, the Committee was not really competent to deal with the problem.

The Indian amendment sought to delete paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, which dealt with matters of detail, from the Iranian proposal while preserving its essential features.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) felt that, before proceeding with the discussion, the Committee should take a decision on the question of its competence in the matter.

Mr. KRASOVEC (Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs), with the permission of the Chairman, intervened in the debate in view of the fact that a number of references to the Commission over which he presided had been made during the discussion.

He said that it was clear that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in remitting the question to the Ad Hoc Committee for study, had expected to receive from the latter a considered opinion, and even detailed recommendations, on the establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency.

In his opinion, it would be a matter of great importance to set up an international Agency capable of contributing to the struggle against the illicit traffic, although that particular aspect of its activities would be but one of its many advantages. On the other hand, the establishment of such an Agency could not fail to be beset by many difficulties, and the Committee should therefore consider whether, and how, they could be eliminated.

The representative of India had certainly been right when he had set the problem against the background of what could be realized forthwith. It was certain that an international Agency could not be set up overnight; only the co-ordinating Authority could be brought into being without delay.

/He suggested

He suggested, therefore, that the representatives of India and Iran should endeavour to agree on a compromise text.

In any event, the question of the establishment of an international Agency called for very thorough study and would have to be discussed, before the Agency was actually brought into existence, with representatives of the manufacturing countries, either in a second Ad Hoc Committee made up of representatives of the principal producing countries and of those of the principal manufacturing countries, or within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs itself. The latter procedure would provide the additional advantage that those countries which were the victims of the illicit traffic, and which were therefore vitally interested in its suppression, were also represented on the Commission.

Mr. COEHLO (India) supported the suggestion of the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the drafting of a joint text by the representative of Iran and himself.

On the other hand, he considered that the terms of reference of the Committee were not so broad as to include the taking of a decision on the desirability of establishing an international Agency. The Committee should therefore limit itself to expressing its opinion as to whether or not it was necessary to set up such an Agency in order to strengthen the campaign against the illicit traffic.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) also agreed to the suggestion made by the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; he, too, pointed out that on that subject, as on others, the Committee could not take a final decision.

Mr. COEHLO (India) thought that it would be useful, at that stage of the discussion, were the representatives of Turkey and Yugoslavia to make known their views on the establishment of an international Agency.

/Mr. KARABUDA

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) replied that, in the opinion of his delegation, the Ad Hoc Committee was perfectly competent to discuss the establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency; it was its task, not only to state that the establishment of such an Agency was desirable, but also to determine its structure.

After a brief exchange of views, it was decided that the next meeting of the Committee should take place on Tuesday, 29 November, at 3 p.m., to continue consideration of items 4 (b), (c) and (d) of the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

SIXTH MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 29 November 1949, at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All representatives and Observers except Mr. de Jongh
(Netherlands)

Also present were Mr. S. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar and
Mr. P. J. Bolton

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS, CALLED FOR IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 5 OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS TO CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT FOR LIMITING THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM TO MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC NEEDS (Item 3 of the Agenda) (resumed from the third meeting)
Communication from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2/Add.1).

The CHAIRMAN having caused document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2/Add.1 (Memorandum by the Secretary-General communicating translation of the text of a letter dated 18 November 1949 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations), setting out the views of the Government of the Soviet Union on the convening of an Ad Hoc Committee of the principal Opium-producing Countries, to be read out,

The Committee took note of the decision of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics not to be represented at its meetings.

2. QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the Agenda) (continued)
(c) The establishment of Government monopolies, and the limitation of the production of opium (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.8/Rev.1) (continued)

Mr. COEHLO (India) proposed that in lines 3 - 5 of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 4 of the Article on Government Monopolies (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.8/Rev.1) the words "maintenance of Government stocks, for the manufacture of drugs or for the preparation of medicinal opium" should be replaced by the words "purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Article on Estimates".

/Mr. AMINI

Mr. AMINI (Iran) had no substantive objection to the Indian proposal, but thought that to include a reference to the Article on Estimates in the Article on Government Monopolies would only confuse the issue. He would prefer to see the whole of the relevant text of the former repeated in that of the latter.

Mr. COELHO (India) agreed, and withdrew his proposal.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) proposed that in line 2 of sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 4 the words "or Government enterprises" should be inserted after the words "the Government itself", for reasons he had already explained during the informal discussions.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) recalled that it had been agreed in the informal discussions that the words "the Government itself" should in practice be interpreted as bearing the expanded connotation referred to by the Yugoslav representative. He thought, therefore, that it should suffice, were the Yugoslav proposal simply to be mentioned in the summary record and the Committee's report.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) agreed.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) then read out a revised version of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 4 in which, as a result of the foregoing discussion, the words "or for other medical and scientific purposes" had been inserted after the words "of medicinal opium".

At the request of Mr. AMINI (Iran), the Article on Government Monopolies (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.8/Rev.1) was put to the meeting paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 1 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 2

The CHAIRMAN thought that, were it left as an independent paragraph, it might prove difficult to give practical effect to the provisions of paragraph 2. He therefore proposed that it be combined with paragraph 3.

It was so agreed.

Paragraph 2 (previously paragraphs 2 and 3) was unanimously adopted.

/Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3 (previously paragraph 4)

New paragraph 3 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 4 (previously paragraph 5)

New paragraph 4 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 5 (previously paragraph 6)

New paragraph 5 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

The Article on Government Monopolies (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.8/Rev.1), as amended, was unanimously adopted.

(d) Establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency (continued)
Co-ordinating Authority.

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of representatives to the Memorandum by the Secretary-General concerning the co-ordinating Authority (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.9).

Mr. COEHLO (India) recalled that, at the fifth meeting, the Committee had requested the representative of Iran and himself to work out a compromise proposal concerning the establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency. As a result of their consultations, two new drafts were now before the Committee, the first of which, dealing with the co-ordinating Authority, had been drawn up by the Representative of the Secretary-General at the request of the two representatives concerned.

In the absence of further comment,

the Committee unanimously adopted the Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing an outline of an Article on the co-ordinating Authority (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.9).

Mr. COEHLO (India) pointed out that, as a result of the decision just taken, it had become necessary for the Committee to consider what body should discharge the functions of the co-ordinating Authority.

Under its terms of reference, the Committee itself could not determine, or even make positive proposals in connexion with, the structure of the co-ordinating Authority; it could only express a desire that the Authority should be fully representative of all countries parties to the Agreement. He felt, however, that
/it would

it would be proper for the Committee to indicate to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs any existing international authority which it considered might be asked to act as the Authority.

There were in existence three bodies dealing with the international control of narcotic substances, namely, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Supervisory Body. Those bodies differed in respect of constitution and representation; but none the less considered that, in order to avoid unnecessary multiplication of international organizations, to save money and to avoid duplication of functions, one or other of those bodies, suitably modified, might well be requested to act as the co-ordinating Authority. The Indian delegation considered that the Permanent Central Opium Board would be the best of the three for the work in question.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) recalled that representatives had already heard the Representative of the Secretary-General's detailed views on the matter at an informal meeting held the previous evening, at which, to the best of his recollection, it had been agreed that the Supervisory Body, strengthened by the addition of representatives of consuming and producing countries, should act as the co-ordinating Authority. He thought that agreement should stand.

Mr. COELHO (India) agreed.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General), while in full agreement with the views expressed by the representative of Iran, wished to place another alternative before the Committee, to guard against the possibility of its proving impracticable to enlarge the Supervisory Body.

He proposed, namely, that the Supervisory Body, through its Secretariat, should be requested to handle the estimates, and to draw up the world requirements of opium for medical and scientific needs on the basis of those estimates. All other functions of the co-ordinating Authority would be assumed by a governing body made up of equal numbers of representatives of producing and consuming countries, each group having a single vote, under a neutral chairman to be elected by mutual agreement.

/Mr. AMINI

Mr. AMINI (Iran) accepted the additional procedure proposed by the Representative of the Secretary-General.

The CHAIRMAN directed that the alternative proposal be mentioned in the report.

Joint Iranian/Indian proposal relating to the establishment of an international purchasing and selling Agency.

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of representatives to document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1, in which the compromise proposal sponsored by the representatives of Iran and India was set out.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) said that, although his delegation accepted in principle the provisions of document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1, he must enter certain general reservations. In view of the fact that, before leaving Belgrade for Ankara, it had not been possible for his delegation to give the Yugoslav Government a clear picture of the form the international purchasing and selling Agency would take, and of the further fact that the proposal before the Committee failed to take into account the problem of existing bilateral agreements to which he had referred in his general statement at the second meeting, his delegation would be unable to vote unreservedly for the proposal before the Committee.

Mr. COEHLO (India) stated that his delegation had agreed to the proposals set out in documents E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1 and E/CN.7/AC.1/L.9 because it was in earnest agreement with the declared aim of the Committee, namely, the limitation of the production of raw opium to medical and scientific needs. However, his acceptance of those proposals was subject to general recognition by the Committee of the special conditions prevailing in his country. He wished to mention two specific aspects thereof.

The first related to the established use in India of opium for quasi-medical purposes. He would content himself with drawing the attention of the Committee to the statement on that subject communicated by the representative of India on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 1 September 1949, and reproduced on pages 1 - 3 of document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2, and especially to paragraph 5 thereof.

/The second

The second aspect related to the fact that India was still exporting small quantities of opium, for similar quasi-medical purposes, to certain territories with which she had traditional political and economic ties, or to which she stood in close geographical propinquity. Such exports were being made only at the request of, and in quantities agreed by, the Governments of the territories concerned. Moreover, it was the declared policy of the Government of India that those exports, as in the case of consumption within India itself, be progressively reduced to requirements for medical and scientific needs. Such exports should not, however, come within the scope of the proposals now before the Committee.

He thought that there should be no difficulty in accommodating his reservations in a specific provision forming an Annex to the Agreement.

With regard to the international Agency itself, he had agreed to its establishment, because it appeared to be the general feeling of the Committee that such a step would contribute to the suppression of the illicit traffic. He wished to emphasize, however, that in the view of his Government its functions should be strictly confined to those essential to the achievement of that objective. Especial care should be taken to see that it was inexpensive to run, as the cost of maintaining it would eventually influence the cost price of drugs. In particular, stocks should be created only in cases of emergency, as such operations could not fail to increase the cost of running the Agency.

Another aspect of the provisions relating to the purchase and sale of opium, to which the Committee had failed to devote attention, had just been mentioned by the Yugoslav representative. Certain countries were obliged, for economic or political reasons, to maintain existing bilateral commercial agreements under which they were required to export opium.

He hoped that, in issuing operational directives to the Agency, the co-ordinating Authority would bear in mind those two points, to the second of which the Government of India also attached considerable importance.

His delegation also accepted the suggestion that the co-ordinating Authority should fix the price at which opium would be bought and sold by the Agency. Such a provision was essential if competition in the international opium market was to be eliminated. However, he hoped that, when doing so, the co-ordinating Authority would give due consideration to national economic factors bearing on the matter.

/Mr. KARABUDA

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) felt that it should be made clear that, when the Agency was set up, care would be taken to ensure that the national character and quality of the opium it handled was not obliterated. The Agency should operate in such a way that producing countries were not deprived of the existing markets for their opium as such, and should be obliged to sell its opium to consuming countries by country of origin.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) feared that the reservations just made by the representatives of Yugoslavia, India and Turkey, if pressed, would jeopardise the whole structure of the Agency as envisaged in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1. He therefore proposed that the meeting should rise, in order to give representatives a further opportunity of reaching full agreement on outstanding issues at an informal meeting.

Mr. COEHLO (India) considered that nothing in the reservations made conflicted with the Article relating to the international Agency, either in the spirit or in the letter. They were of a general nature, and did not affect the detailed structure of the Agency. He proposed that the Article be put to the meeting forthwith.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) explained that the sole object of his intervention had been to ensure that his remarks were placed on record.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) thought that each country was entitled to draw attention to its own difficulties in the hope that they would be taken into account when the Agency was set up, and that the reservations entered in no way weakened the agreement in principle on its establishment.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) could agree that the Article should be put to the vote paragraph by paragraph, delegations making specific reservations as each paragraph came up for discussion.

If he had understood the Yugoslav representative aright, the latter had said that, as his delegation had had no clear picture of what the establishment of the Agency would entail, it must retain full liberty of action on behalf of its Government.

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In his (Mr. Amini's) view, the Article sought to impose limitations on all producing countries; he could not see why Yugoslavia should remain free, when other countries had agreed to be bound by its provisions. Conditional acceptance of the Article, and especially the reservations relating to existing bilateral agreements, cut across the whole conception underlying the establishment of the Agency.

The CHAIRMAN said that, before putting to the vote the Iranian proposal that the meeting should rise, he would like to know what hope there was of further informal discussions leading to an extension of the area of agreement represented by the joint Iranian/Indian proposal.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) acknowledged that he could not contest the right of the representatives of Yugoslavia and India to enter general reservations based on the special conditions obtaining in their countries, if they so wished. Such differences as that revealed by the intervention of the representative of Turkey, however, might well be reconciled by further informal discussions.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) doubted whether it would prove easy to reach agreement on such issues as origins and trademarks.

Mr. COEHLO (India) supported the Iranian proposal that the Article be put to the meeting paragraph by paragraph.

After some further discussion,
the Committee agreed by 3 votes to 1 that the meeting should rise forthwith, and meet again on Wednesday, 30 November, at 3.30 p.m., when consideration of the Article on the International Agency would be continued.

3. STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. MERRILL (Observer for the Government of the United States of America) regretted that he would be unable to attend further meetings of the Committee.

As all present knew, his country had for many years taken a leading part in the campaign to limit the use of opium to medical and scientific needs. He had therefore been gratified to observe the wide area of agreement, on principles
/if not

if not on details, which the Committee had already achieved, particularly at the present meeting. In the light of that progress and of the importance of the topics already disposed of, he could not but be optimistic as to the final outcome of the Committee's work, in which he wished it all success.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

SEVENTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 30 November 1949, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All members and observers except
Mr. Merrill (United States of America)

Also present were Mr. S. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig,
Mr. I. Masar and Mr. P. J. Bolton

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS
OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the Agenda) (continued)

- (c) The establishment of Government monopolies, and the limitation of the production of opium; and
- (d) Establishment of an international purchasing and selling agency
(E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1, E/CN.7/AC.1/L.9, E/CN.7/AC.1/L.10 and
E/CN.7/AC.1/L.12) (continued)

Mr. AMINI (Iran), announcing that, as an outcome of informal talks held earlier that day and attended by all four delegations, a large measure of agreement had been reached on the outstanding points of difference, requested the Representative of the Secretary-General to read out the agreed text embodying the reservations entered by the Turkish representative at the preceding meeting. It was understood that the text would not form part of any of the draft articles, but would be included in the Committee's report.

Dr. OR (Turkey) asked that the following passage embodying the reservation of the Turkish delegation be included in the Report:

"The Committee decided that the rules and regulations of the international purchasing and selling agency shall contain, inter alia, the following provisions:

- (a) Should the Government monopoly of a producing country request that its opium be disposed of to a particular importing country, or to particular importing countries, the Agency

/shall,

shall, so far as may be practicable, comply with the request;

- (b) should an importing country request the Agency to supply opium from a certain producing country, the Agency shall, so far as may be practicable, comply with the request; and
- (c) the Agency shall in every case inform an importing country of the country of origin and trade mark of the opium with which it is being supplied."

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) explained that the text just read out by the representative of Turkey was that referred to by the representative of Iran.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) requested the Representative of the Secretary-General to explain to the Committee that as a further result of the informal talks the proposals dealing with the establishment of the international Agency (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1) and with the co-ordinating Authority (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.9) respectively had been combined to form a single article.

The CHAIRMAN understood that the text of the combined article would be distributed later in the meeting. In the meantime, he suggested that the Committee take up document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.10 in which the Secretariat, at the request of the Committee, had provided an outline for an article on quality control, which was then read out.

There being no observations,

the Committee unanimously adopted the draft article on quality control.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) felt that, since at the previous meeting the discussion on the draft article relating to the international Agency had been deferred without formal adoption, it should be put to the meeting paragraph by paragraph. Later, similar procedure should be followed in the case of the combined article, in order to ensure that no errors crept into the new text. He was particularly anxious to ensure that it be stipulated that the price of opium should not be fixed by any international body without the prior agreement of the Governments of the producing countries, as the Iranian Government had given him express instructions to that effect.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the point raised by the representative of Iran was covered by paragraph (b) of the draft article on the co-ordinating Authority (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.9), which had been unanimously adopted by the Committee at its sixth meeting.

After some further discussion, in which Mr. AMINI (Iran), Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia), Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) and Mr. COEHLO (India) took part, and the CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee could either adopt the proposal relating to the international Agency in the form in which it existed in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1, or wait to do so until the combined article had been circulated,

the Committee decided to take the proposal in its original form (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.6/Rev.1) paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 1 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 2 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 3 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 4

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) asked the Chairman for elucidation as to whether, in determining the basis for calculation provided for in paragraph 4, the requirements, for manufacturing purposes, of producing countries would also be taken into account.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General), replying to the Yugoslav representative at the request of the CHAIRMAN, re-iterated the principles underlying the basis for calculation, as set out in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 4, and explained that the correct approach to that paragraph was to regard it as defining the total share of a given country in world production of opium, and not its share in world exports of opium, which formed only one element in the computation of the production quota.

/Mr. NIKOLITCH

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) having indicated his satisfaction with the explanation,

paragraph 4 was unanimously adopted.

Paragraph 5

Paragraph 5 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 6

Paragraph 6 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 7

Paragraph 7 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Paragraph 8

Paragraph 8 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

The text of the combined draft article on the co-ordinating authority and the international purchasing and selling Agency, sponsored by the Indian and Iranian delegations and comprising the texts of the separate articles already adopted by the Committee, was then circulated (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.12).

After a brief discussion,

the Committee agreed to consider the text of the combined draft article as read and adopted.

(b) Method of allocating exports of opium (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.11) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the meeting to the draft article on sales shares and the annex thereto. He understood that all delegations were agreed on the substance of the article. All that remained, therefore, was to reach agreement on the percentages, and insert the appropriate figures in the blank spaces in the Annex.

Mr. COEHLO (India) formally moved the adoption of the draft article on sales shares.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) said he would support the Indian proposal in order to facilitate the work of the Secretariat in drafting the Committee's report. In the meantime, delegations would do their best to fill the blank spaces in the Annex. He would, however, welcome an assurance that, even if it proved impossible to reach agreement on the percentages, the Secretariat would be able to produce a report for adoption by the Committee at the closing meeting.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN felt that it would be premature for the Committee to adopt the draft article since, were it to prove impossible to reach agreement on the percentages and hence on the annex, the article itself would lose its point. The Committee should content itself with recording its agreement on the drafting of the article, deferring formal adoption to the next meeting, by which time it would be known whether or not agreement on percentages was possible.

Replying to Mr. AMINI (Iran), who pressed his support of the Indian proposal, he pointed out that in the draft before the Committee, the emphasis was on the words "on the basis of the percentage shares laid down in the Annex to the Agreement". So long as those words remained and so long as there was no agreement on percentages, the formal adoption of the draft articles could not make sense. He repeated his proposal that adoption be deferred to the next meeting, and suggested that the Committee should proceed forthwith to fix the time of that meeting.

After some further discussion, Mr. COELHO (India) withdrew his motion.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) concurred, but still wished the Representative of the Secretary-General to reply to his question about the effect of the delay on the preparation of the Committee's report.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that, provided the Committee agreed that the relevant chapter of the report should merely record the views expressed by representatives, and should make no mention of an agreement on percentages, he could give the Iranian representative the assurance he desired.

He felt, however, that there was a second question implicit in Mr. Amini's request, namely, when could the Committee expect to have the report before it? In view of the amount of work entailed and the somewhat limited secretarial facilities available, he did not think it would be safe to reckon on its being ready before Friday morning, 2 December. He would therefore suggest, with the Chairman's permission, that the next meeting be held on that day at 10.30 a.m.

/The Committee

The Committee could then give the report a first reading and, if the extent of the modifications proposed made it desirable, give it a second reading in revised form at a later date, although that was a procedure not commonly followed by organs of the United Nations. Any representative obliged to leave Ankara on Friday could submit his amendments to the first draft in writing for subsequent incorporation in the final version of the report.

After a brief discussion,

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on the date and at the time suggested by the Representative of the Secretary-General, it being understood that the agenda would consist of completion of the consideration of item 4 (b) of the Agenda (method of allocating exports of opium), followed by the adoption of the report.

Mr. COEHLO (India) said that, as it was possible that he might be prevented from attending the next meeting, he would like to express the thanks of the Government of India to the Government of Turkey, for making the work of the Committee possible and for its welcome hospitality, and to the Chairman for the just and efficient manner in which he had conducted its meetings.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

EIGHTH MEETING

Held on Friday, 2 December 1949, at 10.15 a.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives and Observers except Mr. Merrill (United States of America)

Also present were Mr. Krasovec, Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar and
Mr. P. J. Bolton

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS
TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the Agenda) (continued)

(b) Methods of allocating exports of opium (continued)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had still to dispose of
Item 4(b) of its agenda (methods of allocating exports of opium).

Mr. COEHLO (Lidia) proposed that the Committee sit in closed session,
as he would find it difficult to make a statement at a public meeting.

As all present knew, the prolonged informal discussions had finally
resulted in provisional agreement on the figures for the allocation to be
made to each producing country. However, as he was still without authority
finally to commit the Indian Government, he would like the figures to be kept
secret until the approval of his Government was forthcoming.

Mr. AMINI (Iran), who found himself in a similar position, supported
the Indian proposal. He wished again to emphasize that he was unable for the
time being to commit the Government of Iran to any figure other than those he
had announced at public meetings.

The CHAIRMAN, having invoked rule 40 of the revised rules of
procedure of the Economic and Social Council, which it had been agreed should
govern the proceedings of the Committee, put the Indian proposal to the vote.

The Indian proposal was unanimously adopted.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN ruled that only members of the Committee and the Secretariat staff strictly essential to the conduct of the meeting could remain in the meeting room.

The Ad Hoc Committee went into closed session at 10.30 a.m. and resumed its open meeting at 11.45 a.m. The observers were not present during the closed session.

The CHAIRMAN announced that, at its closed meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee had continued its discussion of Item 4(b) of the agenda (methods of allocating exports of opium), that a full exchange of views had taken place, and that the Committee had eventually decided to resume its discussions on that item later.

ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of representatives to the draft report (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.14).

Mr. COELHO (India) considered that, if the Committee intended to adopt the suggestion made by the representative of the Secretary-General at the seventh meeting, namely, that the report should be given two readings (see document E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.7, pages 5 and 6), it would be sufficient for the moment to draw the attention of representatives to each paragraph in succession, requesting their observations thereon, leaving the formal reading of the report to the next meeting.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) supported the Indian proposal. The report was too important a document to be disposed of hastily.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that it might be better, in order to give representatives time to study the report at their leisure, to defer the first reading until the next meeting. If representatives came to that meeting with their considered modifications adequately prepared, the second reading would become a mere formality.

It was so agreed.

/Mr. COELHO

Mr. COEHLO (India) asked for permission to submit his observations on the report forthwith, as he was obliged to leave Ankara that day.

The CHAIRMAN agreed.

Mr. COEHLO (India) thought that the report should open with a summary emphasizing the two very important decisions which had been taken, namely: the decision that all producing countries should set up Government monopolies, similar in structure and mode of operation; and the decision to appoint a co-ordinating authority, to carry out the functions of a policy-making body, and to set up an international purchasing and selling agency to act as the executive organ of the co-ordinating authority. In the latter connexion, reference should also be made in the summary to the mutual obligations assumed by the producing countries (to sell to the international agency all the opium they produced for export) and the agency (to buy all such opium).

It might or might not prove possible eventually to reach agreement on quotas, but, as he had pointed out in the closed meeting, that problem represented only the economic aspect of the Committee's work. It was true that that aspect was a most important one, but he felt that any failure to agree upon it should not be allowed to detract from the real value of the decisions taken. The international agency could certainly be operated without quotas being quantitatively fixed. In any event, although the Committee had admittedly decided unanimously that the quota system should be adopted as the basis for allocating exports, it was not impossible that one of the further conferences it was proposed to hold on the matter might reverse that decision.

He also had two minor drafting changes to propose.

He considered that the word "trade" should be deleted from line 7 of page 4 of the English text. The Committee had been convened, not to discuss trade or economic aspects of the problem, but to reach agreement on the humanitarian objective of limiting the production of opium to medical and scientific needs.

He also thought that it should be made clear in the opening words of Section 11 that the original proposal relating to the international agency had been made by the representative of Iran, and that he (Mr. Coehlo) had only submitted an amendment thereto.

/Mr. AMINI

Mr. AMINI (Iran) supported the proposal of the Indian representative that the constructive results achieved by the Committee should be duly emphasized in a summary to the report.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) undertook that the Secretariat would take into account the remarks of the representative of India, and strengthen the summaries in the manner suggested.

Mr. COELLO (India) proposed that the Secretariat should issue a press release at the end of the session, bringing out the points he had emphasized in his comments on the draft report.

The CHAIRMAN indicated that this would be done.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Mr. KRASOVEC (Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs) regretted that he was unable to stay to see the end of the Committee's work, near as it appeared to be. It could truly be said that, unless an unexpected setback occurred, the Committee was on the point of taking a great step towards the limitation of the production of opium. As the speakers at the opening meeting had rightly emphasized, the many attempts made during the forty years which had elapsed since the first international meeting on the subject had been held at Shanghai, to bring the opium trade under international control, had been largely frustrated by the impossibility of arriving in the first instance at an agreement to limit the cultivation of the opium poppy. The world was therefore hanging eagerly on the result of the Committee's work, and he sincerely hoped that its final act would set the seal on the work begun so long ago.

He was proud that he could say that the idea of the solution to the problem now proposed had been conceived and elaborated in the Commission over which he had the honour to preside. That was why he had come to Ankara to watch the Committee's deliberations. Any failure to reach full agreement would, in his opinion, deal a severe blow to the ultimate aim of the Commission's current work, namely, the unification of all existing Conventions relating to the control of narcotic drugs.

/STATEMENT

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

Dr. LABIB (Egypt) announced that he too was obliged to leave Ankara that day. Before doing so, he wished to impress on all members of the Committee that Egypt, as one of the most unfortunate victims of the illicit traffic, was very interested in the problem before the Committee, and most anxious to see its efforts to limit the production of such narcotics as opium, hashish etc. crowned with success. He therefore, in the name of the Government of Egypt, wished the Committee all success in what there remained for it to do.

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, the Committee decided that its next meeting would take place on Monday, 5 December 1949, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

NINTH MEETING

Held on Monday, 5 December 1949, at 10.30 a. m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan .

Present: All members and observers except Dr. Labib (Egypt)
and Mr. Merrill (United States of America).

Also present were Mr. L. Steinig, Mr. I. Masar and Mr. P. J. Bolton

1. ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited observations on the draft report prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.14).

Mr. AMINI (Iran) recalled that at the preceding meeting he had associated himself with the remarks of the representative of India concerning the necessity of emphasizing in the report, preferably in an introductory summary, the important decisions taken by the Committee (see E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.8, page 3). He also wished to support the observations made by the same representative in connexion with the introductory paragraph to Section 11 of the report.

He further proposed the deletion of the words "statuts et" from line 23 of page 13 (French text), as he did not consider the Committee competent to deal with legal aspects of the constitution of the international agency.

Finally, he would like to know precisely what was meant by the words "single resolution" in Section 13 of the draft report.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) recalled that he had already undertaken to incorporate in the final version of the Report the suggestions made by the Indian representative.

/He thought

He thought that the second point raised by the representative of Iran was rather a matter of translation. The English words "rules and regulations" simply meant the rules of procedure of the proposed body. He thought the point could be met by deleting the words "statuts et" from the French text, leaving the English text as it stood.

The resolution referred to in the final section of the report could be drawn up only when all the decisions reached by the Committee were known, that was to say, when section 9 of the report dealing with the allocation of export shares had been drafted. It would follow the usual lines for resolutions adopted by comparable bodies of the United Nations, setting out in general terms the decisions reached by the Committee, and requesting the other organs of the United Nations concerned and the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures required to implement those decisions.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) indicated his satisfaction.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation would prefer that the phrase "since the latter would allow the importing countries to dominate the world market" be deleted from the first sentence of the final paragraph on page 6 of the English text. It was true that he had used similar words in his general statement, but to mention them in the report might unduly offend the susceptibilities of manufacturing countries. As a consequential amendment, the word "moreover" should be deleted from the penultimate line on the same page.

On page 7 of the English text, the figure "1940" should be substituted for the figure "1941" in lines 4 and 5.

The passage "and it was conceivable... decrease in production" (lines 10-12, page 7) appeared obscure, and might even be interpreted as meaning the contrary of what he had actually said at the second meeting, as reported on page 8 of document E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.2. On that occasion he had pointed out that a country producing a fairly large quantity of opium, the great part of which would be used within the country, might find that it had been allocated a share in the export trade which would oblige it, in view of its large internal consumption, to increase its production; that would be contrary to the declared aim of the Committee's work, namely, the limitation of production. He thought

/that the

that the sentence in question should be re-drafted to bring out his meaning more clearly. Similarly, referring to the immediately following passage, he had not specifically mentioned either India or Iran in his general statement, and would like the report to be amended accordingly.

Finally, in Section 11 of the report (third paragraph, page 11, English text) his delegation would like the words "or so far as her barter trade was concerned" to be inserted between the words "it was party" and the words "with the functioning of the agency".

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey), referring to the opening sentence of the first paragraph on page 8 of the English text, pointed out that what he had in fact said in his general statement was that the domestic trade, although subject to Government control, was nevertheless free, in the sense that, although opium could only be exported by the Government opium Monopoly, private traders could still trade in opium inside the country. The reference to the draft bill before the Turkish Parliament was correct.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) asked whether the representative of Turkey could accept the following revision of the passage in question.

A semi-colon would be inserted after the word "controlled" in line 4 of page 8, and the passage beginning with the words "except the domestic trade" and ending with the words "before Parliament", would be replaced by the following sentence: "the domestic trade, although subject to Government control, was nevertheless still free, but a draft bill intended to bring such trade within the purview of the Government opium Monopoly was at present before Parliament."

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) assented.

There being no further observations,

the CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee had completed the first reading of its draft report. The Representative of the Secretary-General would prepare a revised version thereof, which would be distributed to representatives the following morning to enable them to study it before the meeting to be held the next afternoon, at which it could be adopted together with the final resolution.

2. QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item 4 of the Agenda) (continued)

(b) Methods of allocating exports of opium (continued)

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) considered that it might now be opportune to ask the representative of Iran whether he had anything to communicate to the Committee in connexion with the reply of his Government to the proposals made last week.

He therefore moved that the Committee go into closed session.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) thanked the Turkish representative for his suggestion, which anticipated a similar proposal he had himself been about to make. He would suggest that the Committee adjourn, in order to enable him to communicate to representatives, at an informal meeting, his Government's reply. When representatives had agreed informally as to what consequential action was required in Committee, the meeting could be resumed, either in closed or open session.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee could take no decision at an informal meeting.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) agreed, but maintained his proposal that representatives first meet informally.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) supported the Iranian proposal, and further suggested that after the informal meeting the Committee resume its meeting in closed session.

Mr. de JONGH (Observer for the Government of the Netherlands) said he would much appreciate it if the Chairman could explain why the Committee should find it necessary to hold closed meetings. The Indian representative might well have been justified in requesting, as reported on page 2 of document E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.8, that the Committee go into closed session, since he did not wish the figures on which agreement had been reached to be made

/available

available to the general public pending their approval by his Government. He (Mr. de Jongh) could not, however, understand why observers sent by the Governments of countries interested in the production of opium should be asked to accept the general agreement reached by the Committee without being permitted to follow the whole course of the discussions. Why could they not be trusted with the agreed figures?

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that under the rules of procedure the Committee was perfectly free to decide whether or not to hold closed meetings. If it did so, only representatives, and not observers, could attend such meetings.

Mr. SUSINI (Observer for the Government of France) regretted that he must, despite the Chairman's explanation, press the point raised by the Observer for the Netherlands Government. He would point out that, had the Committee decided at its first meeting to hold all its meetings in private, the presence of observers would have become entirely superfluous. They would have been able only to take note of the results achieved by the Committee, which they could just as easily do by studying the press release to be issued at the close of the session. Moreover, had such a course been taken, the action of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs itself, which had seen fit to ask interested Governments to send observers to the Committee's meetings, would have been rendered pointless.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) begged the Observers for the Governments of France and the Netherlands to appreciate the delicacy of the situation. Both knew that the crux of the problem was the allocation of quota shares, and that had the discussions on that point been held in open meeting throughout, the probability was that the Committee would have been obliged to record failure. The decision to go into secret session had been taken in order to circumvent such an unfortunate eventuality. Although he was now in a position to give an affirmative answer on behalf of his Government, the acceptance of the representative of India was still subject to the approval of the Indian Government. Once that approval was forthcoming, the figures for the percentages could be made available to the observers.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN wished, before putting the Turkish proposal to the vote, to draw the attention of the Committee to a point of procedure. Were no decision taken with regard to the closed session at the present meeting, another open meeting would be required after the informal talks had taken place, to enable the Committee to take such a decision. It would therefore be more practicable for the Committee to decide forthwith that its next meeting should be held behind closed doors.

After some discussion,
the Committee decided that its next meeting should be closed, and should take place on Monday, 5 December 1949, at 9.30 p. m.

The meeting rose at 11.30 p. m.

TENTH MEETING

Held on Monday 5 December 1949, at 9.45 p.m. in closed session

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives

Also present:

Mr. L. Steinig

Mr. I. Masar

Mr. P. J. Bolton

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE Ad hoc COMMITTEE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item 4
of the Agenda) (continued)

(b) Method of allocating exports of opium
(continued)

The tenth meeting of the Ad hoc Committee was held in closed session (see E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.10, page 6.)

The meeting rose at 12.30 a.m.

ELEVENTH MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 6 December 1949, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives and Observers except Dr. Labib (Egypt)
Mr. Merrill (United States of America)

Also present:

Mr. L. Steinig

Mr. I. Masar

Mr. P. J. Bolton

ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the revised draft of the Committee's report, in which the Secretariat had incorporated the observations submitted by representatives at the ninth meeting (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.14/Rev.1); and which contained, in Section 13, the ^{draft} final resolution for adoption by the Committee.

He proposed that the report be formally read paragraph by paragraph, and asked whether, to save time, the Indian representative would agree to dispense with the reading of the English text.

Mr. YENUS (India) agreed.

Introduction

The Introduction was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Sections 1 - 8

Sections 1 - 8 were unanimously adopted without discussion.

Section 9. Allotment to Producing Countries of Shares of Opium Sales

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia), referring to the fourth paragraph of Section 9, pointed out that his delegation had not yet formally announced at a meeting of the Committee its willingness to renounce its share of the world requirements of opium in excess of 450 tons in any year. An appropriate declaration would be made at the closing meeting, but he wondered whether it was in order for the Committee formally to adopt the relevant paragraph of the report when it was based on a statement made at an informal meeting.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) explained that the Secretariat had proceeded with the drafting of the paragraph in question in order that the preparation of the report should not be further delayed, since it was aware of the tenor of the declaration from the informal talks, even though it did not know the exact form it would take.

Moreover, he would point out that in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.11/Rev.1, which had been adopted at the closed meeting held the previous evening, the Yugoslav percentage share in column C, relating to the apportionment of opium production in excess of 450 tons, was nil. The Yugoslav declaration was implicit in that figure.

/Mr. NIKOLITCH

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) expressed himself satisfied with the explanations given by the Representative of the Secretary-General.

There being no further comment,

Section 9 was unanimously adopted.

Section 10. Government Opium Monopolies

Section 10 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Section 11. Co-ordinating Authority and International Purchasing and Selling Agency

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia), referring to the fourth paragraph of Section 11, said that, although the amendment thereto made by the Secretariat met the request he had made at the ninth meeting, the text as it stood still failed accurately to reflect the position of the Yugoslav Government. It would be recalled that, at the sixth meeting, he had voiced certain reservations relating to his Government's acceptance of the proposed mode of operation of the agency (see E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.6, page 6), but had later agreed that it would be undesirable to use the word "reservation" in the report.

The text before the Committee implied that the Yugoslav Government had already accepted the functions of the international Agency provided for in the relevant outline of an article for the proposed Agreement (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.12), and that the only anxiety it felt in the matter concerned the reconciliation with the operations of the agency of Yugoslavia's existing trade obligations. In point of fact, what he had said was that, although it was probable that the Yugoslav Government would accept the proposals in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.12, it had not yet done so. He thought that point should be brought out more clearly.

After an exchange of views, during which Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) proposed two alternative additional phrases for insertion in the paragraph in question, and Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) again explained the difficulty in which his delegation found itself,

Mr. AMINI (Iran) suggested that the paragraph might be drafted in some such language as:

"The Committee took note of the fact that, while recognising the necessity for creating an international purchasing and selling agency,

/the Yugoslav

the Yugoslav Government would communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations at a later date its views on the form that agency should take."

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) accepted the suggestion of the representative of Iran.

There being no further comment,

Section 11 of the Report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. YUNUS (India) regretted that he was obliged to leave the meeting, and accordingly wished to inform the Chairman that he had examined the report and the final resolution therein, both of which he was prepared to see adopted unamended.

Section 12. Quality Control

Section 12 was unanimously adopted without discussion.

Section 13. Resolution of 6 December 1949

The final resolution of the Committee having been read out, and no delegation having offered any comment thereon,

the CHAIRMAN ruled that it had been unanimously adopted.

Section 14. Press Communique

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it had not been possible to draft the press communique for consideration by the Committee at the present meeting, as it must clearly reflect the decisions taken thereat.

It would therefore be distributed at the beginning of the final meeting for the consideration and approval of the Committee.

There being no further observations,

the CHAIRMAN ruled that the revised draft Report of the Committee, document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.14/Rev.1, had been unanimously adopted, subject to subsequent approval of Section 14 (on the Press Communique), and subject to the correction of a number of typographical errors to which attention had been drawn by representatives during the course of the reading.

/Mr. AMINI

Mr. AMINI (Iran) asked whether it was the CHAIRMAN's intention that the summary records of the Committee's meetings should be read and formally approved, either at the present or at the final meeting.

The CHAIRMAN and Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) having successively explained that the usual practice at meetings of organs of the United Nations was for representatives to submit to the Secretariat their corrections to each summary record, and that it was not usual to adopt the summary records formally,

Mr. AMINI (Iran) expressed his willingness to follow the former procedure.

The Committee decided that its final meeting should take place on Wednesday, 7 December 1949, at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

TWELFTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 7 December 1949, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan

Present: All Representatives and Observers except Dr. M. Labib (Egypt)

Also present were: His Excellency Mr. Necmettin Sadak
(Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey),

His Excellency Mr. Kemali Bayazit
(Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare of the Republic
of Turkey),

His Excellency Mr. Firat Dicleli
(Minister for Commerce of the Republic of Turkey),

His Excellency Mr. Cavit Oral
(Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Turkey),

Secretariat: Mr. L. Steinig, Representative of the Secretary-General,
Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs,
Mr. I. Masar, Division of Narcotic Drugs,
Mr. P. J. Bolton, Secretary to the Committee.

1. ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT (continued)

Section 14. Press Communique

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of representatives to the Press Communique prepared by the Secretariat (document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.16) and asked whether they had all had an opportunity of studying it. If not, he would cause it to be read out.

Mr. AMINI (Iran) thought that the Committee might dispense with a formal reading. Personally, he thought the Press Communique could be adopted forthwith.

The CHAIRMAN observed that, since no other representative had any comment to offer, Section 14 (Press Communique) of the Committee's Report could be considered as unanimously adopted.

2. CLOSURE OF SESSION: Statements by the representatives of Iran, Yugoslavia and Turkey and by the representative of the Secretary-General; closing address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey; closing address by the Chairman

Mr. AMINI (Iran) said that, now that the Committee's work had reached its close, he would like briefly but clearly to sum up the views which the Government of Iran had always held on the points discussed by the Committee.

In accordance with the instructions he had received from the Government to reach a constructive result, he had made certain concessions which, he was pleased to record, had enabled the Committee to register a considerable advance along the road to the solution of the opium problem.

The adoption of the proposal to establish an international purchasing and selling agency, the recommendations concerning the standardization of Government opium monopolies, and, finally, the determination of the method of estimating world requirements in opium proved that, working with the object of limiting the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, the Committee had made a great contribution to the suppression of the illicit traffic in opium.

The position of the Government of Iran in respect of the allocation of sales shares was clearly stated in document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.2, which revealed that the Imperial Government had claimed for Iran a fair share in the distribution of the world requirements for medical and scientific purposes, in order to emphasize the place occupied by his country as a large producer and exporter of opium.

It had consequently been difficult for the Government to accept any basis for the allocation of export quotas to each producing country, other than the basis proposed by it, especially in view of the fact that the economic situation of his country was somewhat precarious, and of the difficulties of a general nature which were compelling it to make heavy sacrifices.

However, moved as always by a sincere desire to remove the danger of the improper use of opium, the Government of Iran had agreed to make a great concession by accepting a new basis for the allocation, which had enabled the Committee to reach agreement on that important point. It was therefore a great satisfaction to him to emphasize the efforts made by the Government to enable the Committee to record success.

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It was to be hoped that in the future the joint efforts of the countries concerned together with the assistance, both moral and material, of the United States of America, whose encouragement and support to all countries of good will had not flagged for more than fifty years, would enable producing countries to cope with the technical and economic difficulties which might be provoked by the implementation of the agreement reached.

It only remained for him to thank, in the name of both the Government of Iran and its delegation, the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its very warm welcome.

He also wished to thank the Chairman for the most capable manner in which he had conducted the business of the Committee. Further, he wished to pay his respects to the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the heads of the Indian, Turkish and Yugoslav delegations, whose collaboration was interpreted by the Iranian delegation as a token of sincere friendship. He would be failing in his duty if he did not pay tribute to the work of the Representative of the Secretary-General, to whom all present owed a deep debt of gratitude for the care and patience with which he had succeeded in disentangling the somewhat confused ideas which had first prevailed, and thus guided the negotiations to a successful close. He thought he would not be exaggerating if he said that all representatives had greatly benefited by the outstanding capability and technical advice of the Representative of the Secretary-General.

Finally, he wished to thank all members of the Secretariat for the enthusiasm which they had brought to the service of the Committee.

Mr. NIKOLITCH (Yugoslavia) said that throughout the session his delegation had constantly striven to make its contribution to a constructive agreement on the most difficult point of the Committee's work, namely, the allocation of export quotas. The Yugoslav delegation had initially proposed that the allocation of shares should be based on exports to the medical market for the period 1925-1929, which had been a normal period for exports.

As an alternative procedure, the Yugoslav delegation had also proposed that the period 1925-1940 might be taken as the basis for allocating export shares. That was a long pre-war period, although it included some very unfavourable years for Yugoslavia, and other years in which that country had made great efforts to reduce its production in opium, despite its importance for her general economy.

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Although those two periods, as well as that from 1934-1940 proposed as the basis in the memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.7/AC.1/L.1, page 21) would justify the allocation to Yugoslavia of export shares varying from more than 22 per cent down to 16.5 per cent, his delegation, appreciating the necessity of reaching at all costs, agreement on a question of great humanitarian significance, had voluntarily offered to reduce its share, in a manner and to an extent which would be all the more striking if and when the Secretary-General make public the actual shares agreed upon. That offer had been made in the hope that other delegations would subsequently find it easier to make similar reductions.

Moreover, the Yugoslav delegation wished now to announce that Yugoslavia would take up her share of world exports only in respect of a maximum of 450 tons for world scientific and medical needs. Should such estimated world export requirements exceed 450 tons, Yugoslavia renounced her share of the excess tonnage, which would thus remain for distribution among the other producing countries in such ratios as they might mutually agree upon.

In making that decision his delegation was firmly convinced that, as a result of the rising standard of health services throughout the world, requirements of opium for medical purposes would steadily increase. That process would normally have resulted in a steady expansion of Yugoslavia's traditional export market. However, the abolition of the non-medical market would undoubtedly entail a setback in the near future in the production of certain producing countries, and the Yugoslav delegation had wished to make that contraction less painful and more gradual for those countries.

His delegation considered that, in view of the large measure of good will and understanding for the decisions of the Economic and Social Council displayed by other delegations to the Committee, the latter's meeting would constitute a decisive turning point in the solution of the long-standing problem of opium, and would make a substantial contribution to its final solution.

Finally, the Yugoslav delegation wished to express its deep appreciation of the spirit of conciliation and international co-operation which had moved all delegations to make agreement possible. It wished also to thank, in particular, the Government of Turkey for its hospitality, and for the technical services it had made available. His delegation was also grateful to the Chairman for the

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patience and unfailing good humour with which he had presided over the Committee's deliberations, and to the Secretariat for the efficient service which it had rendered under the able direction of the Representative of the Secretary-General, to whom special thanks were due for the invaluable advice he had given to all delegations.

Mr. KARABUDA (Turkey) was gratified to observe that after two weeks, arduous labour, the Ad Hoc Committee had reached agreement on all the points which it had been asked to deal with.

It was therefore his pleasant duty to congratulate the Committee on having arrived at a result, satisfactory from the humanitarian point of view, even if less so regarded from the angle of the opium-producing countries, in view of the fact that it had been achieved only at the price of concessions of varying extent by one delegation or another.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had asked the Committee to lay stable foundations for a future international agreement for limiting the use of opium to medical and scientific needs (an aim which had not hitherto proved possible of achievement, despite the existing Conventions), would no doubt appraise the result of the Committee's work at its true worth.

The task which the Committee had just completed had not been of the simplest, and in bringing it to a successful conclusion the Committee had frequently found itself face to face with serious difficulties, since it had been obliged to choose between humanitarian motives, which pointed to renunciation of economic interests, and economic considerations themselves of great importance for all the countries concerned. It was a great pleasure to record that the well-being of mankind had carried the day. The Committee might well be proud of that.

The allocation of export shares had been the most thorny item on the agenda. But, guided by a praiseworthy understanding of the problem, the Committee had been able in that case too to overcome all difficulties and reach agreement. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs would no doubt be grateful to the Committee for that achievement.

/As a result

As a result of the decisions taken by the Committee, the conditions governing the export of opium and its control by Government monopolies would be standardized for all producing countries; that would provide a guarantee that the total world production of opium would be disposed of to the international purchasing and selling agency, of which the Committee had also laid the foundations.

That agency would, to a large extent, do away with the difficulties which producing and consuming countries alike had hitherto encountered, by guaranteeing the former a stable market for the sale of their produce, and by making available to the latter such quantities of opium, of controlled quality and standard, as they might require. Moreover, it would frequently prove possible for the latter to choose the country of origin of their opium.

The hard work which the Committee had put in to reach that agreement would be more than paid for by the humanitarian value of the results achieved, and the concessions made by the various delegations would be offset by the moral satisfaction of knowing that they had conferred a considerable benefit on mankind.

He was happy to be able to express the thanks of the Turkish delegation to all other delegations for the conciliatory attitude they had displayed during the discussions, and would apologize for any lack of hospitality of which, despite its good intentions, the Turkish delegation might inadvertently have been guilty. He wished especially to thank the Representative of the Secretary-General, who had not spared himself to make the task of the Committee easier, and to come to the aid of all delegations in moments of crisis with his lively mind and fertile imagination.

He wished also to thank the Chairman for having conducted the debates so tactfully and wisely, and all members of the Secretariat for having achieved so much in so little time.

Mr. STEINIG (Representative of the Secretary-General) thanked all representatives who had been good enough to associate the Secretariat with the results achieved by the Ad Hoc Committee for the kindness of their words and the generosity of their sentiments.

The members of the Secretariat had done no more than their duty in helping the Committee to carry out the decisions and policy directives of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the

United Nations. Their role, which was not always an easy one, was that of impartial servants of the Governments Members of the United Nations. That impartiality, from which it would be improper for the Secretariat to depart, might perhaps have hurt the feelings or interests of certain delegations from time to time. He trusted that the Secretariat's position would be appreciated, and that any injury so done had already been forgotten.

The Secretariat's work had been made much easier by the pleasant atmosphere created by the discreet but cordial care and hospitality of the Turkish authorities; and in the several, if short, visits to various institutions so kindly arranged by Dr. Or, members of the Secretariat had had an opportunity of meeting the people of Turkey at first hand and of seeing for themselves that the attitude of the Government was but a reflection of the qualities and characteristics of the Turkish people as a whole.

He wished also to thank the Observers for the suggestions and general contribution they had made.

Finally, the Secretariat's responsibilities, and particularly his own, had been greatly lightened by recourse at times of crises to the wise and effective help of the Chairman.

The Committee had thus by way of mutual concessions, reached the end of the first stage of the road towards the suppression of the illicit trade in opium and addiction to it. More difficulties would naturally be encountered at the next meeting. If however, the same spirit prevailed on that occasion, all would be well. He therefore dared to hope that the near future would see the achievement of the objective behind the Committee's work, namely, the limitation of the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, and the guarantee that the legitimate needs of the sick and suffering would always be assured without risk of failure.

The CHAIRMAN announced that Their Excellencies Mr. Necmettin Sadak, Mr. Kemali Bayazit, Mr. Firat Dicleli and Mr. Cavit Oral respectively, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Hygiene and Social Welfare, Commerce, and Agriculture in the Government of the Republic of Turkey, had honoured the meeting with their presence and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had asked for the floor.

/He had

He had much pleasure in inviting His Excellency Mr. Sadak to address the Committee.

H. E. Mr. Necmettin SADAK, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, conveyed to the Committee on the occasion of the closure of its session the warmest congratulations of the Government of the Republic of Turkey.

His experience as Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Turkey to the League of Nations, in which capacity he had attended several meetings dealing with narcotics, made it easy for him to appraise at their true worth the difficulties which its task entailed for the Committee, and the beneficial effects that the constructive decisions which it had been called upon to take would have on the common good.

There was no need for him to enter into the staggering details, of which all were unfortunately aware, of the widespread use of narcotic drugs in all the countries, and among all the classes, of the world. The Governments affected had been obliged to take the most severe and well-intentioned steps to counteract that danger, which was growing daily. It was unnecessary for him to describe the efforts made by each country in that field, or the results obtained. It would suffice to say that his own country, deeply conscious of the magnitude of the problem on the social, humanitarian and world planes, had considered no sacrifice too great to hasten the achievement of the aim which all had made their own, namely, the limitation of the production and export of opium to world requirements for medical and scientific needs alone. He must add at once that the other producing countries represented on the Committee had displayed the same spirit of concession, and the utmost goodwill in the field of human mutual assistance.

But, although much had undoubtedly already been achieved, the work had so far been, and still was incomplete. It remained to perfect it. To that end, it had been necessary for producing countries, at a joint meeting, to decide in an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual concession on the measures which must be taken to bring their production and exports of opium under control.

Was that not why representatives had been led to adopt, by common consent, its decisions (which he could sum up under four headings) the ultimate purpose of which was the attainment of the aim which all hoped to see realized?

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In the first place, the producing countries would take in common the measures required to limit their production and exports of opium to the amounts required for medical and scientific needs. Producing countries which had no Government opium monopoly would set one up in accordance with principles to be established by a committee composed of representatives of both producing and manufacturing countries. Countries which already had Government monopolies would bring them into line with those principles. It would thus be guaranteed that the areas sown with the opium poppy would be fixed and limited by the monopoly, which would alone enjoy the right of buying and selling opium.

Secondly, the producing countries, with due regard for past production and exports, would agree equitably among themselves on the percentage shares of the medical and scientific market to which they would be entitled each year. They also undertook to regulate their poppy cultivation and production of opium accordingly.

Thirdly, an international agency would be set up, whose task it would be to take over the quantities of opium corresponding to the share allotted to each producing country and to deliver opium to the several manufacturing countries. In that way, producing countries would be relieved of anxiety as to the possibility of disposing of their production, and manufacturing countries in their turn would be assured of always finding in the possession of the agency adequate quantities of opium for their legitimate needs.

Finally, account had been taken of the fact that it would be necessary to set up an international co-ordinating authority to lay down world opium policy, to issue the necessary directives to the international agency, to fix prices and quality standards for opium, and to determine the quantities of opium required each year for legitimate purposes. Such an authority would also be set up as a result of the decisions taken by the Committee.

He would like to take the opportunity of recalling that his country had always been one of the largest producers of first-quality opium, but that its use (except for medical purposes) had never been common there. Moreover, as representatives knew, the cultivation of the opium poppy in Turkey had been subject to Government control, through the opium monopoly, since 1933. Similarly, the export of opium was concentrated in the hands of the Soil Products Office. He was happy to be able to inform the meeting once more that

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the scope of the Turkish Government opium monopoly would very shortly be extended to cover the internal trade in opium, thereby perfecting Turkish legislation and administrative arrangements in the field of opium, and making them irreproachable.

The task of the Committee, however, was not yet finished; and it was far from easy. The abolition of the use of opium for non-medical purposes must be ensured at all costs. Mankind as a whole must pool its resources in an endeavour to rehabilitate the unfortunate victims of drug addiction, and to prevent that evil from claiming fresh victims.

Finally, in view of the existence of world-wide smuggling, which called for repressive measures on an international scale, it was essential that all civilized Governments, both individually and collectively, should intensify their efforts to stamp out that seven-headed hydra.

He wished to thank members of the Committee for the perfect understanding which they had displayed in the matter of the allocation of sales shares. He also thanked them for having chosen Ankara as their meeting place. Their choice of His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan as Chairman, too, had much touched the people of Turkey. It was also his pleasure to pay his respects to the United Nations themselves for their unremitting activities in a field of such vital interest.

He congratulated members on the spirit of co-operation which they had displayed and of which they could all justly be proud, and on the mutual concessions they had made, and hoped that they would carry away from Ankara, not merely memories of difficult labours successfully completed, but also memories of an agreeable stay in Turkey.

The CHAIRMAN hoped that representatives would allow him to sum up the results of the Committee's work. That was a pleasant duty, as the Committee had succeeded in completely discharging the task with which it had been entrusted. The course of the meetings had been harmonious and, despite the very considerable divergences of view which had appeared from time to time, all the Committee's decisions had been unanimous. That was a rare achievement, worthy of emphasis, and the results attained could truly be called a success.

The vital objective of the meetings had been, on the one hand, to guarantee to the world the amounts of opium required for legitimate medical and scientific needs, and, on the other hand, by limiting the production of opium to those requirements to facilitate the suppression of the illicit traffic in opium and addiction to that drug.

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Within the scope of its terms of reference, the Committee had made proposals concerning methods of determining world requirements in opium for medical and scientific purposes, and it had also expressed well-defined views on the structure and mode of operation of Government opium monopolies. It had also closely studied the possibility of setting up an international purchasing and selling agency, which would strengthen international control and make it easier to operate.

Finally, in the field which was at once the most important and the most difficult, the Committee had not only expressed firm views on methods of allocating exports of opium among producing countries, but had even reached agreement on the percentage share of the total volume of the legitimate international trade in opium to which each country was entitled. Several attempts had been made in the past to reach such an agreement, but the present Committee was the first to have succeeded.

If, at the meeting which representatives would be attending in a few months' time with representatives of the drug manufacturing countries, representatives succeeded in achieving in the same spirit and with the same unanimity the constructive results hoped for, the day when the production of opium would indeed be limited to medical and scientific needs would no longer be far distant.

At the present time, when true agreements were so rare and failure to agree so common, every success of the kind achieved by the Committee, no matter how limited its scope, was of importance.

Each delegation had come to the meeting with certain plans and claims. No delegation, however, had realized its expectations to the full; the agreement reached had been born of mutual concessions. The patience and perseverance, good will and long hours of work of the Committee had prevailed, in a comparatively short space of time, over all difficulties.

He wished also to thank the observers for their contributions to the debate and for the patience and forbearance with which they had followed the work of the Committee.

Having thanked representatives for the indulgence and courtesy which they had constantly shown him, which had greatly eased his task, he wished to express, both in the name of the Committee and personally, gratitude to the Secretariat, which had been so closely and actively associated with the work of the Committee. All aspects of the Committee's work had been carried out with care and expedition, and he thought the Secretariat's efforts merited general admiration.

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He was convinced that he would be speaking for all present when he expressed his admiration for the active part which the Representative of the Secretary-General had unceasingly played in the Committee's work. His knowledge, experience and talents as negotiator and conciliator, which he had been good enough to place at the disposal of all delegations, had been of great use.

The Committee was indeed indebted to the Secretary-General for having provided the Committee with so capable a team.

In conclusion, he must thank most sincerely the Turkish Ministries, Government Departments and Institutions concerned for the valuable assistance which they had rendered. He must particularly mention the University of Ankara, and especially its Faculty of Agriculture, which had generously provided general services and office accommodation.

He asked the Committee to accept his best wishes for a pleasant return to their homes and for success in the work and negotiations which awaited them within the competent bodies of the United Nations. He hoped that they would succeed in arriving at the results which all hoped to see achieved as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.