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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN GERMANY

Note by the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs

It will be recalled that the Commission at its third session, held at Lake Success, New York from 3 May to 22 May 1948, agreed to invite representatives of the Occupying Powers in Germany to inform their Governments of the illicit traffic in Germany, and to request them to establish close liaison with the police authorities of the bordering countries. The Secretary-General accordingly addressed letters to the members of the Commission representing the Governments of the Occupying Powers requesting information on any measures taken to suppress the illicit traffic in Germany, with a view to communicating such information to the other members of the Commission.

In this connection the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs has the honour to transmit herewith a note dated 3 December 1948 received from the United States Mission to the United Nations.

/UNITED STATES

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C O P Y

UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

December 3, 1948

The Officer in charge of the New York Office of the United States Mission to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Acting Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to Mr. Robert T. Huang's letter (reference SAO 9/6/02/BC), dated September 21, 1948, to Harry J. Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics, in regard to the measures taken by the United States Military Government for Germany to establish close liaison with the authorities of the bordering countries with a view to the suppression of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

Close liaison has been established between the American narcotic officers and the Netherlands narcotic police at The Hague. An investigation is currently being conducted simultaneously in the Netherlands, the British Zone and the United States Zone in the matter of the seizure of four kilograms of dried Indian hemp tops, allegedly of German origin, on board of the American SS SILVIA LYKES in Rotterdam on August 25, 1948. The hemp was contained in packing material of the firm of Joseph Pankofer and Company, Munich, dealers in frozen foods. Investigations in Munich show that this is a reputable firm which has in the past maintained branch offices in foreign countries, and in Rotterdam in particular, where it is likely that the packing material was obtained.

The German narcotic police in the British and United States Zones are able to correspond directly with the narcotic police authorities of Switzerland, France, Belgium and Denmark. Liaison between British and American narcotic officers and such European authorities is established personally wherever required.

Direct liaison between the narcotic officer of the United States Zone and the Austrian central narcotic authorities in Vienna, under the direction of Dr. Patzek, was established in 1947, and is maintained to date. Close liaison is also maintained between public safety officers of the United States Military Government in Austria and the Austrian narcotic authorities.

For some time inquiries relating to violations of the German narcotic laws addressed by German police in the United States or United Kingdom Zones to German Police in the Soviet Zone have remained unanswered.

/Dr. Heindl,

Dr. Heindl, now chief of the Bavarian State Criminal Identification Office in Munich, who was formerly police president of Dresden, states that all his efforts to obtain information about violations from Dresden, which is in the Soviet Zone have been in vain, although many of the police officials there were formerly his subordinates, who would be glad to cooperate but are forbidden to do so.

The same situation now exists in the city of Berlin where police authorities in the western sectors are unable to obtain cooperation in narcotic cases from the police in the Russian Sector of the city.

The situation is similar in respect of Czechoslovakia as far as can be judged from the failure of the Czechoslovak Police to answer inquiries of the western zones in narcotic cases. In case of urgency, it would be possible for the United States or British narcotic officers to proceed to Prague for the purpose of causing investigations of the matter to be pursued. The prospects of travel into the Soviet Zone for similar purposes are dim.

No important cases of illicit narcotic traffic involving individuals residing in Czechoslovakia or in the Soviet Zone have been reported in the United States Zone to date. It remains to be seen what measure of cooperation could be obtained in the event of an important seizure involving smuggling between Czechoslovakia or the Soviet Zone and the western zones in either direction.

The Acting Assistant Secretary-General is authorized to communicate the above information to the other States Members of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs of the Economic and Social Council.

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