



UNITED NATIONS

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

UNDER THE CONVENTION OF 13 JULY 1931 FOR LIMITING
THE MANUFACTURE AND REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF
11 DECEMBER 1946

PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PHILIPPINES

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith an annual report forwarded to him in pursuance of Article 21 of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946. (For the form of annual reports, see document E/NR.1949/Form)

New York, 1953

A. GENERAL

I. LAWS AND PUBLICATIONS

During the year under review, no new law was passed in Congress and no orders or regulations relative to opium and other dangerous drugs were promulgated. Previous to and on or after 4 July 1946, the Harrison Narcotic Act which was made applicable to the Philippines by virtue of Section 2 of said Act, was the only law that regulated transactions in narcotic drugs for medicinal use. On 20 May 1952 a bill to replace this Act was introduced in Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means. This bill provides for registration of, and the imposition of fixed and special taxes upon, all persons who produce, import, manufacture, compound, deal in, dispense, sell, distribute, or give away opium, marihuana, opium poppies, or coca leaves, or any synthetic drugs their salts, derivatives, or preparations, which are capable of producing addiction and are so declared by Executive Order of the President of the Philippines.

All existing laws and regulations regarding narcotics were enforced effectively, both in respect of the legitimate trade and the illicit traffic.

II. ADMINISTRATION

There has been no change in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions, particularly those which pertain to the collection of data required by the Permanent Central Opium Board, and the consolidation of all seizures reported by the Bureau of Customs, the Philippine Constabulary, and the Chiefs of Police of all chartered cities.

III. CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

No difficulties were encountered in the application of the provisions of Regulation No. 107 of the Department of Finance with respect to import certificates and export authorizations during the period covered by this report.

The authorities responsible for the issuance of import certificates and export authorizations, as well as diversion or transit certificates, have not been changed. The movement of narcotics and other prohibited drugs in the legitimate trade and of synthetic drugs capable of producing addiction as decided by the World Health Organization is still under the control and supervision of the Drug Inspection Section, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Finance. The Government has not met with any cases of forged or falsified import certificates or export authorizations during the year.

There was no change in the application of the system of special import certificates for Indian hemp nor were any difficulties encountered in its application.

There were no exports of prohibited drugs during the year under review.

IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As was previously reported, the President of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the necessity of concurring in the acceptance of the Protocol signed at Paris on 19 November 1948, decided to submit to the Senate of the Philippines the said Protocol for ratification as required by the Constitution.

During the year covered by this report, the Senate of the Philippines failed to adopt a resolution concurring in the acceptance by the President of the Philippines of the said Protocol and, therefore, the Philippines cannot

as yet be considered a party to the Protocol, signed at Paris on 19 November 1948, as the full powers authorizing the Philippines representative to sign for the Philippines contain a reservation regarding constitutional requirements of the country.

Even in the absence of a law that places under control all transactions in synthetic drugs capable of producing addiction, the importation and sale of these drugs are actually being regulated in the same way as are other narcotic drugs.

V. ILLICIT TRAFFIC

There was a marked increase in the number of seizures made by the different law-enforcing agencies of the Government during the year under review. Fifty-six seizures,* as compared with thirty of last year, were made from the different parts of the islands during the year covered by this report, involving 17 Filipinos and 178 Chinese. In the City of Manila alone, 34 seizures were made by the Manila Police Department** involving 8 Filipinos and 140 Chinese. The quantity of prohibited drugs involved in these seizures was almost double as compared with that of the previous year.

Fifteen cases involving 9 Filipinos, and 140 Chinese were tried in court. Of the 149 persons tried in court, two Filipinos and 59 Chinese were convicted, 2 Chinese were acquitted, and the cases against 4 Chinese were dismissed. Three Chinese were released by the Fiscal's Office for lack of sufficient evidence against them, thus leaving a total of 100 pending cases involving 15 Filipinos and 110 Chinese.

The Government was able to realize a total collection of P9,750.00 (US \$4875) from imposed fines and from those cases pending in 1951 but decided in 1952, a total collection of P4,400.00 (US \$2200) was made. An aggregate sentence of 15 years, 10 months, and 21 days was imposed on all cases decided in 1952, including those pending in 1951.

The following drugs and articles were seized by the different law-enforcing agencies of the Government during the year:

	<i>Grammes</i>
Prepared opium.....	1,930.5
Opium ash.....	75.5
Morphine.....	54.5
Cocaine.....	4.8
Opium paraphernalia.....	22 pieces

VI. OTHER INFORMATION

A closer and stricter surveillance of smugglers in the southern part of the Islands was made by the different law-enforcing agencies of the Government. It is believed that entry of a great portion of these drugs with the aid of small boats and fishing bancas are made through these points. In one seizure alone, in Iloilo, the Philippine Constabulary was able to confiscate a number of opium tins labelled "Dog Brand" containing almost 1,200 grammes of the drug.

In the Island of Luzon, seizures were also made by the law-enforcing agencies of the Government, but the quantity of prohibited drugs involved was quite small compared with that seized from the Visayas and Mindanao.

*Note by the Secretariat: Particulars concerning individual cases can be found in the *Summary of Illicit Transactions and Seizures*, document E/NS.1953/Summary 5.

**Note by the Secretariat: For further information, see Chapter VI, "Other Information", of this report.

The greatest number of seizures was made in the City of Manila during the year 1952. The Manila Police made a total of 34 seizures involving 148 persons of whom 8 were Filipinos and 140 were Chinese.

The Court of First Instance of Manila was able to dispose of 68 cases during the year covered by this report resulting in an aggregate imprisonment of 9 years, 6 months and 4 days and a total imposed fine of P9,450.00 (US \$4725).

The following quantities of prohibited drugs were seized by the Manila Police:

	<i>Grammes</i>
Prepared opium.....	203.5
Opium ash.....	15.5
Morphine.....	43.5
Cocaine.....	4.8

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. RAW OPIUM

During the year, the Philippines had a total import of 116,240.4 grammes (pure drug content) of opium, its derivatives and preparations and 6,700 grammes of synthetic drugs which were decided by the World Health Organization as capable of producing addiction.

The poppy plant not being grown in the Philippines, raw opium is not produced here and no attempt was made to cultivate the said plant. In the bill introduced in Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means, it is proposed to prohibit the cultivation of marihuana and poppy plant.

The following were the drug establishments and Government offices authorized to import opium, its derivatives and preparations thereof, with the quantity in their pure drug content imported from 1 January 1952 to 31 December 1952, including synthetic drugs capable of producing addiction:

	<i>Grammes</i>
Armed Forces of the Philippines.....	3,586.7
F.E. Zuellig, Inc.	28,360.4
Far Eastern Drug Co.	5,230
Oceanic Commercial Co.	700
Metro Drug Corporation.....	7,829.1
Doctor's Pharmaceutical Inc.	1,805
Estraco.....	9.6
Botica de Sta. Cruz.....	12,340
Hizon Laboratory.....	1,424
Philippine American Drug Co.....	12,059.3
Lexal Laboratory.....	440
Cathay Co., Inc.	0.2
Farmacia Oro.....	292.4
Sharp and Dohme.....	533.4
La Estrella del Norte.....	7.6
Kuenzle and Streiff.....	18,625.7
Mercury Drug Co.	10,600
Pascual Laboratory.....	10,700
Inhelder Inc.	1,683.3
Winthrop Stearns, Inc.	6,700
E.R. Squibb & Sons.....	0.6
Total:.....	122,940.4

The Bureau of Internal Revenue made a total collection of P444,209,438.72 (US \$222,104,719.36) from 1 January 1952 to 31 December 1952, out of which

P26,527.72 (US \$13,263.86) were collected from "S" privilege tax-receipts.* During the period under review,** 6,020 regular permits for local purchases, 45 permits for importation, and 117 special permits were issued for the importation of preparations and remedies containing negligible quantities of prohibited drugs.

VIII. COCA LEAF

No attempt was made to cultivate the coca plant in the Philippines. During the year covered by this report, the Philippines had a total import of 4,415.4 grammes (pure drug content) of cocaine alkaloids and their salts.

There was no importation of coca leaves during the year.

IX. INDIAN HEMP

Indian hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L) is not cultivated in the Philippines.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. INTERNAL CONTROL OF MANUFACTURED DRUGS

There is no public or private entity in the Philippines which is engaged either in the manufacture of narcotic drugs or in refining processes since the poppy plant is not cultivated here and the country does not import raw opium. Opium in its pure state, its derivatives and preparations for medical and scientific uses and as ingredients in the manufacture of medicinal preparations, is imported into the country.

During the year, the Philippines was able to import a total of 360 grammes of heroin (diacetylmorphine). No exportation of this drug was made during the year.

As reported in Chapter III above, the movement in the legitimate trade of opium, its derivatives and preparations thereof and of synthetic drugs capable of producing addiction as decided by the World Health Organization is still under the control and supervision of the Drug Inspection Section, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Finance.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS

XII. PREPARED OPIUM

Opium smoking is totally prohibited in the Philippines.

During the year covered by this report, a total of 1,930.5 grammes of prepared opium, 75.5 grammes of opium ash, 54.5 grammes of morphine, and 4.8 grammes of cocaine were confiscated. The bulk of these seizures were made in the southern part of the Islands.

*Note by the Secretariat: For particulars of this tax system, see *Annual Report of the Philippines for 1939*, League of Nations document C.29.M.261941.XI (O.C./A.R.1939/67) pages 6, et seq.

**Note by the Secretariat: The annual report also contains: (a) a list showing the local purchases of narcotic drugs including those made by Government officers; (b) a list of narcotic drugs imported with details relating to each consignment. These lists are retained in the archives of the Secretariat.

There were 61 convictions with an aggregate imprisonment of 9 years, 10 months, and 5 days, and a total imposed fine of ₱9,750.00 (US \$4,875), and those cases pending from the previous year that were decided in 1952 had 9 convictions with an aggregate imprisonment of 6 years and 16 days, and a total imposed fine of ₱4,400.00 (US \$2,200).

All confiscated narcotic drugs and paraphernalia, after the termination of the cases, will be turned over to the Opium Custodian Committee who will decide on their disposal and destruction.