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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

KOREA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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

1. During the year, the provisions of USAMGIK (U.S.A. - Military-Government-
2. in-Korea) Ordinance No. 119, of 11 November 1946*, and of Public Health Order No. 3, of 24 June 1947, have been in effect in the Republic of Korea. New regulations, however, are now being contemplated and formulated.
3. Nil.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. a. As of 25 July 1952, the Narcotic Section, which had been dissolved since the invasion of the Republic of Korea in 1950, was re-established in the Bureau of Drug Administration, a Department of the Ministry of Health, in order to enforce the provisions of the international conventions.
- b. Does not apply.
- c. Nothing special to report.

2. Drug addiction

According to the existing law, the distribution of narcotic drugs directly to addicts even by hospitals, practitioners or pharmacists, including dispensing for the purpose of their treatment, is strictly prohibited. Almost all the addicts in the country obtain their supplies through the illicit traffic. During the period covered by this report, 15 kg of raw opium, one kilogramme of morphine and 241 grammes of heroin were confiscated. This fact indicates that addicts are using such drugs exclusively. Most of them are supposed to be resident addicts, and any addict on detection is to be registered by the competent authorities. There were several reception centers for addicts throughout the Republic of Korea, but owing to the continued war against Communists such centers were destroyed or closed. However, at present, two of them are being re-opened for receiving, treating, and controlling addicts. During the year, the number of addicts reported by police and officers of enforcement agencies was 1,370, and details regarding nationality, age, grouping, and occupation are as follows:

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Korean	1,066	285	1,351
Chinese	19	-	19

Age grouping	Male	Female	Total
Under 20	8	2	10
21 - 30	90	80	170
31 - 40	416	148	564
41 - 50	432	44	476
51 - 60	106	10	116
61 - 70	33	1	34

* Note by the Secretariat: See document E/NL.1947/6.

Occupation	Male	Female	Total
Farmers	319	2	321
Fishermen	36	-	36
Labourers	32	-	32
Traders	161	22	183
Clerks, entertainers (hotel, restaurant, etc.)	80	91	171
Medical personnel	3	-	3
Unknown	455	169	624

III. CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. No formal import or export has been made during the year.
2.)
3.) Nil.
4. As the Republic of Korea is not an exporting country, no export authorizations were issued.
- 5..)
6.)
7.) Does not apply.
8.)

IV. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. Does not apply.
2. No trade with any country during the year.
3. Does not apply.

V. ILLICIT TRAFFIC

1. It was evident from the cases discovered by the competent authorities, that considerable opium was harvested from poppies grown in the more remote and mountainous areas of the Republic of Korea. This raw opium is ultimately used by smugglers for the manufacture of pulverized heroin. It is believed that this has been the main source of supply for addicts. Energetic efforts have been and are being made to suppress such illicit activities, as also smuggling from North Korea occupied by Communists and from abroad, such as Hong Kong or Japan.
2. Such cultivation is absolutely prohibited by law in the Republic of Korea. The coca plant does not grow in the country. Small quantities of opium were being obtained from legitimate cultivation in certain areas under Japanese control; since the Liberation of Korea from Japan in 1945, such cultivation is being illicitly carried on. It is known that a large amount of opium was obtained from areas cultivated during the year in the remote mountainous regions, but owing to the difficulties in transportation and the general confusion resulting from the war, there is no way to estimate correctly how much it may have been or what disposition has been made of the opium so obtained. However, the total amount would not be so much as to exceed the requirements of the Republic. A certain variety of the Indian hemp plant is cultivated by farmers, but traditionally Koreans have never used it for any purpose other than for making textiles and rope.
3. Prosecutions332
Offenders415
Convictions245
Imprisonment 30 (terms range from 3 months to 4 years)
Penalties imposed on 215 convicted persons 460,000 hwan (US \$7,664)
(fines range from 200 to 40,000 hwan (US \$3.33 - \$666.40))

4. Nil.
5. Raw opium 15 kg
Morphine 1 kg
Heroin 0.241 kg
6. Raw opium - per kg, approximately ... 9,000 hwan (US \$150)
Heroin pulverized - per g, approximately ... 1,000 hwan (US \$16.66)

It is considered that the quality of the raw opium now produced illicitly is so inferior as to contain half of the usual content of morphine (7 per cent), and the heroin is ordinarily regarded to be highly adulterated. Considerable fluctuations of prices occurs depending upon illicit imports from North Korea or abroad, currency policies or other factors.

VI. OTHER INFORMATION

Nothing special to mention.

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. RAW OPIUM

1. The last available figure was that for 1943: 7,507 hectares. This figure is based on actually registered fields according to Japanese records. Although cultivation of the opium poppy has been absolutely prohibited by law since 1946, such cultivation is being considered to meet the future requirements of the Republic.
2.)
3.)
4.) Does not apply.
5.)
6.)
7.)

VIII. COCA LEAF

As stated above the coca plant does not grow in the country.

IX. INDIAN HEMP

1. A certain variety of the Indian hemp plant does grow wild, and in some farming regions it is collected, processed, and used in the domestic manufacture of cloth and twine exclusively. The narcotic content of the Indian hemp plant grown in the country is known to be very inferior.
2. No statistics are available for 1952 due to the current emergency situation. For information please refer to the report for 1946.*
3. No available statistics.
4.)
5.)
6.) Does not apply.
7.)
8.)

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. INTERNAL CONTROL OF MANUFACTURED DRUGS

1. a. By law the manufacture of narcotics and other dangerous drugs in this country is entirely prohibited.

* Note by the Secretariat: See document E/NR.1946/59.

- b. The production and use of diacetylmorphine is also prohibited.
- c. Strict control over the trade in narcotics is maintained by the Government through relevant regulations.

2.)
3.) Does not apply.

4. a. Retailer	1
Medical personnel	1,605
Physicians	1,442
Dentists	119
Veterinarians	44
Pharmacists	50
Wholesalers	20
Manufacturer supplying harmless preparations	1

- b. Regular and occasional inspection is carried out by officials who are authorized to demand that they be furnished with detailed reports regarding receipts, disposals and specific uses of the drugs. These officials are entitled to exercise judicial power on the spot.

As a result of renewal of registration, errors relating to registry matters have been corrected.

At inspections, the provisions relating to the locking and keeping of drugs separately in a safe place are especially enforced so as to prevent thefts or careless loss.

5. Does not apply.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS

XI. CHAPTER IV OF THE HAGUE OPIUM CONVENTION OF 1912

Does not apply.

XII. PREPARED OPIUM

- A. Strictly prohibited by law and no opium-smoking addicts have been found.
- B. Does not apply.
- C. There is no indication from prosecutions of the extent of smuggling, but in the light of experience it might well be considered that opium has been introduced illicitly from the former opium poppy cultivating areas north of the 38th parallel and from abroad, as Hong Kong and Japan.

All the confiscated opium, along with other narcotics and dangerous drugs, was to be burned and destroyed.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing special to report.

