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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

BRITISH GUIANA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

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

A. Laws

1. The following Order was made to come into operation as from 26 January 1952:

Order-in-Council No. 7 of 1952* made under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1937 (No. 10 of 1937).

2. This Order had the effect of adding to the Schedule of Drugs controlled by the Dangerous Drugs laws of British Guiana the following:

Dihydrocodeine, its salts and any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any proportion of dihydrocodeine.

Acetyldihydrocodeine, its salts and any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any proportion of acetyldihydrocodeine.

4-Propionoxy-4-Phenyl-1-methyl-3-ethylpiperidine, its salts and any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any proportion of 4-propionoxy-4-phenyl-1-methyl-3-ethylpiperidine.

3-Hydroxy-N-methylmorphinan, its salts and any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any proportion of 3-hydroxy-N-methylmorphinan also known as Methorphan.

B. Publications

3. There was no publication, official or un-official, likely to be of interest to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. a. No modifications in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions were made during the year.
b. In this Colony, it has not been found practicable to establish a separate administration for the purposes enumerated at (a), (b) and (c) of Article 15 of the Limitation Convention of 1931, as trade in these drugs is very small in extent.
c. No difficulties were encountered in the application of the conventions.

2. Drug Addiction:

A. Extent of Addiction

1. Under existing Narcotic Laws, the Director of Medical Services is empowered to register drug addicts and to issue permits to them to obtain supplies of tincture of opium in specified quantities and at specified intervals for addiction purposes from stocks held by Government Medical Institutions. The issue of these permits is controlled in collaboration with the Police Department and addicts are registered both in the Medical and Police Departments.

The approximate number of addicts in the Colony during the year under review was - 26.

- a. Those who received drugs from medical sources in accordance with the arrangements outlined above totalled - 26, while

* See document E/NL.1952/28.

- b. Those who were known to be in possession of drugs obtained from illicit sources totalled - nil.
 - c. No illicit narcotics were seized within the Colony during the year.
2. Of the number shown to have received drugs from medical sources, the youngest addict was recorded as being 37 years old. Of the remaining 25, nine (9) were in the age group 40-50 years, six (6) were in the group 51-60 years, while ten (10) were over 61 years old.

One (1) was a female East Indian huckster while the remaining twenty-five (25) were all male Chinese employed either as cooks in Chinese-owned restaurants, launderers or shop-assistants.

3. Tincture of opium was the drug most commonly used by registered addicts, each of whom received a weekly supply of an ounce and a half (42.5 g).

No case has come to light in which any of the synthetic drugs have been used for addiction purposes.

4. All addicts to whom reference was made in the foregoing paragraphs are without exception resident in the Colony, and there is no record of drugs having been supplied to transient addicts.

B. *Treatment of Addicts*

There are no establishments in this Colony for the exclusive treatment of cases of drug addiction, but there are Government Hospitals (five in all) at Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Suddie, Bartica and Mabaruma, to each of which patients of every classification are admitted. These institutions are general hospitals with the usual accommodation for medical, surgical, maternity and other cases. Addicts desiring institutional treatment can be admitted to either of those hospitals under appropriate conditions. Under the local Mental Treatment Ordinance, persons suffering from mental neurosis due to drugs may apply for voluntary admission to the Mental Hospital for treatment and care. However, no case involving treatment for the effects of drug addiction has ever been recorded in any of the hospitals mentioned.

C. *Other Information:*

Addiction and the Professions

1. Total number of -
- a. Medical Practitioners - 106
 - b. Dentists - 33
 - c. Pharmacists - 129
 - d. Veterinary Surgeons - 7

(The figures given refer to the number of persons in each category noted in the Official Registers as resident in the Colony on 31 December 1952).

- 2. The number of known addicts in each of the above classes - Nil.
 - 3. The number of each of the above classes convicted in 1952 for violation of the Narcotic Laws - Nil.
3. Since control of dangerous drugs in accordance with the international conventions was started, the incidence of drug addiction has greatly decreased. The present system of control is adequate in scope and effect, and constant supervision of the transactions of authorized drug dealers is carried out.

III. CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. The system of import certificates and export authorisations for the

control of imports and exports of opium and other dangerous drugs worked satisfactorily during the year and no difficulties were encountered in this connection.

2. There was no change as regards the department responsible for issuing import certificates and export authorisations, as well as diversion or transit certificates.
3. The conditions of issue of import certificates and export authorisations and of diversion or transit certificates were not modified during the year.
4. This Colony is not, generally speaking, an exporting country and no dangerous drugs were exported.
5. No cases of forged or falsified import certificates or export authorisations came to the knowledge of this Government during the year.
6. No difficulties have arisen with regard to transit, transshipment or diversion, and there are no free ports or free zones in this Colony.
7. No transactions took place during the year with countries which have not adopted the system of import certificates.
8. No special import certificate for Indian hemp was issued during the year and no change was made in the application of this system (Article 11 of the Geneva Convention of 1925).

IV. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. No international treaties or agreements were concluded during the year under review.
2. No new points of interest or importance as regards co-operation with other Governments have emerged.

V. ILLICIT TRAFFIC

1. There was no evidence of any organised illicit traffic in dangerous drugs in the Colony during the year. One case occurred, however, involving illicit possession of appliances and receptacles usually associated with opium smoking.
2. The opium poppy, coca plant and Indian hemp are not cultivated in this Colony.
3. As indicated at paragraph 1 above, one prosecution was instituted in 1952. The defendant was a Chinese launderer who was fined \$26 (US \$15.60) or 2 months imprisonment with hard labour.
The appliances and receptacles were confiscated and destroyed.
4. The case reported above involved a minor offence against existing legislation and there was nothing of importance connected therewith which merited submission of the special report called for under Article 23 of the 1931 Convention.

VI. OTHER INFORMATION

There is nothing to report.

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. RAW OPIUM

The opium poppy is not cultivated in this Colony and no raw opium is produced.

VIII. COCA LEAF

The coca plant is not cultivated in this Colony.

IX. INDIAN HEMP

1. The Indian hemp plant (*cannabis sativa* L.) grows wild in this country but to a very limited extent. No use is made of this plant as far as is known.
2. The plant is not cultivated legitimately.
3. The harvesting of Indian hemp is not permitted by law.
4. Illicit cultivation has not been detected.
5. a.)All transactions in the resin of Indian hemp, or in the preparation
b.)of which such resins form the base, such as hashish, etc., are prohibited by law.
6.)
7.)Not applicable.
8. Galenical preparations (extract and tincture) of Indian hemp are now treated in the same way as other dangerous drugs.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. INTERNAL CONTROL OF MANUFACTURED DRUGS

1. a. None of the drugs are manufactured in this Colony.
b. As regards diacetylmorphine, the requirements of Chapter IV of the Limitation Convention of 1931, have been brought into effect by administrative action.
c. The control provided for by Articles 13 and 14 (Chapter V of the Limitation Convention of 1931) is applied by the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1937.
2. Licences
 - a. As dangerous drugs are not manufactured in this Colony, no manufacturing licences are issued.
 - b. The issue of licences for trading in and dealing with dangerous drugs is controlled by the Dangerous Drugs (Licensing Conditions) Regulations, 1937, and licences are issued only to persons belonging to the following groups or classes:
 - (i) Professional Licences - approved dentists and veterinary surgeons.
 - (ii) Drug Store Licences - approved wholesale and retail proprietors.
 - (iii) Industrial Licences - the managers in charge of Sugar Plantations with certified hospitals or other persons employing labour on mining claims, subject to certain conditions.

- (iv) Special authorisations - by the Director of Medical Services, whether in respect of addiction purposes or otherwise, and subject to specified conditions.

3. *Manufacture*

Not applicable.

4. *Trade and Distribution*

- a. There were no wholesalers or other persons authorised to be in possession of dangerous drugs for the manufacture of preparations for the wholesale trade.

Persons of the following classes are authorised to possess and use dangerous drugs:

- (i) Registered medical practitioners;
- (ii) persons in charge of laboratories used for the purpose of research or instruction and attached to institutions, schools or colleges, approved for the purpose by the Director of Medical Services;
- (iii) public analysts;
- (iv) Government dispensers employed or engaged in dispensing medicines at public institutions;
- (v) persons acting as sampling officers under the Sale of Food and Drugs (Consolidation) Ordinance;
- (vi) persons duly authorised by the Governor under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance.

All such persons are authorised under the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1937, to possess and supply dangerous drugs only so far as is necessary for the practice or exercise of their respective professions or employments.

Pharmacists conducting retail business in accordance with the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, are authorised to retail, dispense and compound dangerous drugs and preparations containing such drugs.

- b. Supervision is exercised over persons authorised to possess and use dangerous drugs principally by a departmental committee under the control of the Director of Medical Services. Inspection of wholesale and retail pharmacies and of transactions in the drugs is undertaken as a routine measure by the Inspection Committee and in addition any officer of the police, or any police constable authorised in writing by an officer of the police, has power to enter the premises of any person carrying on the business of a seller or distributor of dangerous drugs, and to inspect any stocks of such drugs and any books or documents connected therewith.

5. *Manufacture of and Trade in Diacetylmorphine*

- a.)Neither the manufacture nor exportation of diacetylmorphine is
- b.)authorised in this Colony and no relaxation in these restrictions
- c.)occurred during the year.
- d. No importation of this drug was authorised during the year under review.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS

XI. CHAPTER IV OF THE HAGUE OPIUM CONVENTION OF 1912
Not applicable.

XII. PREPARED OPIUM

The possession and use of prepared opium is totally prohibited. The habit of opium smoking is practically suppressed.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

There are no facts of importance with regard to any drugs not mentioned in the foregoing report and no action was taken during the year in connection therewith.

The estimated population of the Colony at the end of December 1952, was approximately 449,772 based on the 1946 census.

