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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

COLOMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
COLOMBIA

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

Resolution No. 440 of 14 June 1952* governing the sale of products containing codeine and dionine and replacing resolution No. 129 of the same year.

This resolution reads:

"Article 1. In issuing or renewing licences, the Laboratory for the Control of Drugs of the Samper-Martinez National Institute of Hygiene shall determine whether pharmaceutical preparations or medicinal products containing methyilmorphine (codeine), ethylmorphine (dionine) or their salts or derivatives shall, in accordance with the international conventions on narcotic drugs, be sold on a medical prescription. It shall further determine which of these medicaments shall not bear directions or instructions for use on the labels or in advertisements.

"Article 2. The inspectors of laboratories and pharmacies in Bogotá and the health authorities in the municipalities shall be present during the preparation of such substances. The officials concerned shall ensure that the vessels containing the drugs remain in the same state in which they entered the official depository, namely duly sealed.

"Article 3. Violation of the above provisions shall be punishable by a fine of two hundred pesos (200.00 pesos (US \$79.60)). If the offence is repeated, in addition to the fine, the permit to manufacture the product shall be cancelled. These penalties shall be imposed by the Inspectorate of Laboratories and Pharmacies in Cundinamarca, and by the Departmental Directorates of Health in the other Departments."

An increase in the consumption of ethylmorphine and methyilmorphine having been noted, the provision requiring a medical prescription for the sale of medicaments containing these substances was brought into force, as was also, in order to make the control of the drugs more effective, the order that laboratories manufacturing patent medicines containing them must prepare them in the presence of a health officer.

Various reviews and periodicals published articles warning Colombian citizens of the danger to health involved in the use of marihuana.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. There was no change in this respect in 1952. The Narcotics Section is responsible for the campaign against drug addiction and the control of the trade in narcotic drugs, as well as for their distribution, throughout Colombia. The Inspectorate of Laboratories and Pharmacies supervises such establishments and imposes penalties in cases where regulations on the trade in habit-forming drugs are violated.

2. Drug addiction

During the year covered by this report it was confirmed that a woman had become a morphine addict and as a result had been hospitalized. The following details were given in her case report: E.S. de F. - married, resident of Bogotá, took a 10 centigramme dose of morphine daily. She showed signs of having suffered from *angina pectoris* ten years previously. She had been treated with morphine and from that time on had taken small doses of morphine intermittently (2 to 3 centigrammes daily). Last year she increased the dose to 18 centigrammes. She was subjected to dis-intoxication treatment and showed an improvement for a period of three

* Note by the Secretariat: See E/NL.1952/59.

months, at the end of which she had an attack of colic. The doctor who was treating her, unaware of her predisposition, prescribed sedol, as a result of which she again became an addict. At the present time she is taking 10 centigrammes daily. Dr. Roberto de Zubiria has been given permission to treat her by the rapid disintoxication method.

Two addicts died in 1952, their particulars being as follows:

Name	Age	Drug consumed	Addicted since
A.A.	39	Morphine	1930
F.R.F.	37	Morphine	1925

A.A. had been addicted to heroin, of which he consumed 50 centigrammes daily; later he consumed morphine. He had undergone disintoxication treatment at the Government Sanatorium on many occasions but without any effect. At the time he died he was taking 35 centigrammes of morphine hydrochloride daily.

F.R.F. was a woman who had taken morphine from the age of 10 years. Two of her near relatives were also addicts. She was hospitalized for treatment on two occasions but did not improve.

ADDICTS REGISTERED IN COLOMBIA

Male	Female	Total
86	12	98

Seven addicts entered the Medellin Insane Asylum during the year for disintoxication treatment.

According to the reports submitted by the Departmental Directorates of Health, 1173 licences were issued in 1952 for the use of extra-therapeutic doses of morphine and its derivatives to alleviate painful illnesses. Six hundred and seventy-three of the patients concerned died during the year. As there were 529 licences outstanding on 1 January 1952, there remain 1029 persons who take narcotic drugs in order to alleviate painful illnesses.

III. CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In accordance with the provisions in force the National Government is the sole importer of potent drugs. Permits for the introduction or export of these drugs are issued by the legal Department of the Ministry of Health and imports are made through the Sampar-Martinez National Institute of Hygiene.

The Narcotics Section sent the following communication on the violation of article 13 of the 1925 Convention to the Permanent Central Opium Board and to the United Nations Economic and Social Council through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

"The Italian Government issued on 7 October of this year, through the High Commissioner for Hygiene and Public Health, a permit No. 52 for the export to Colombia of the narcotic substance known as 'LEVADONE' (bitartrate of 6-dimethylamino-4:4 diphenyl heptan-3-one) manufactured by C. Erba of Milan, without the Legal Department of the Ministry of Health of Colombia having first granted the import licence for this potent drug."

A note to the Italian Ambassador to Colombia regarding this import was worded as follows:

"The Minister of Health presents his compliments to the Ambassador of Italy and has the honour to inform him that permit No. 52, issued by the High Commissioner for Hygiene and Public Health, Rome, for the export to Colombia of the narcotic substance known as 'LEVADONE' cannot be countersigned, as the import had not been previously authorized by the Legal Department of this Ministry, the only body empowered to issue permits for the introduction of potent drugs into Colombia."

IV. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The following reply was sent to a communication received from the Belgian Legation on the possibility of the Colombian Government acceding to the Brussels Agreement on the unification of pharmacopoeial formulas for potent drugs:

"This office, bearing in mind the fact that the conclusions reached in the said agreements on the list of names, manufacture and active elements, have been adopted and are to appear in the American, British and French pharmacopoeias which are recognized as official by Colombia under article 4 of Decree 1174 of 1950, and, in addition, that the other conclusions serve as a standard for the unification of samples in the various countries, has the honour to recommend that Colombia should accede to the international agreement on the unification of the formulas of the medicaments mentioned." The following reply* was sent to Note. CN. 106 of the United Nations** on the control of synthetic drugs:

"Under Decree No. 2801 Colombia since 1942 has subjected to the narcotic drugs control the drug known as 'demerol' or 'dolantin' as well as products containing it. Article 27 of Decree 1174 of 1950 provides that medicaments such as pethidine, amidone, miadon, methadone and adanon are deemed to be narcotic drugs and are therefore subject to the provisions of Decree No. 1727 of 1940. Such medicaments shall bear labels with the words 'Narcotic drug - habit forming.' In addition, article 26 of the same Decree states: 'Licences shall not be issued for medicaments which are deemed to be narcotic drugs in Colombia, but are not subjected by the Governments of the producing countries to the restrictions applicable to heroic drugs.'"

The abovementioned texts show that Colombia has done its best to prevent synthetic drugs from increasing the danger of drug addiction.

V. ILLICIT TRAFFIC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supplied the following information in a confidential note:

"... generally speaking, a seaman on board a banana boat buys one or two revolvers in Miami, sells them in Santa Marta and with the proceeds purchases marihuana, which he sells upon his return to Miami. That is to say, he smuggles and makes a profit at each end. The port of Santa Marta is well known in Miami to be the principal source of supply of marihuana in Latin America, as in at least fifteen of forty cases investigated in a year it was proved that the marihuana came from Santa Marta. A mysterious person has figured in each investigation, who, according to the confession of some of the accused, controls the trade in Santa Marta marihuana, which is practically unobtainable, without his permission. I am in a position to supply the following details: (a) the marihuana 'king' of Santa Marta is a citizen popularly known as T.el T.; (b) T.el T. is ostensibly engaged in a lorry business and has an estate in the neighbourhood of Santa Marta; (c) the estate must be situated on the road leading to Minca or further away on the road leading to Cincinnati, but in any case it must have a temperate climate; (d) on this estate T.el T. cultivates the best marihuana known in the United States, selling it for as much as 60 pesos (US\$23.88) a pound (453.6 g). The seaman sells it in the United States for US\$125. This marihuana is the highest priced and the best; (e) T.el T. wants weapons and ammunition, and

* Note by the Secretariat: The text of this reply was reproduced in document E/CN.7/255 of 30 January 1953.

** Note by the Secretariat: This refers to the circular note of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, No. C.N.106.1952. NARCOTICS of 27 August 1952.

not money, in payment for the marihuana and he has required this of many seamen; (f) in many cases T.el T. does not sell directly, but through the owners of certain establishments in the brothel district; nevertheless, these gentlemen do not sell it without T's permission; (g) the crews of the ships Worden and Placida are especially suspected, but all the ships on the Santa Marta, Miama, Tampa and Jacksonville run should be watched; (h) the most common method of introducing marihuana on board ships is in the pocket, as personal inspection sometimes takes place when a person leaves a ship, but not when he boards it."

There have been no cases of illicit traffic in opium derivatives. The fines and penalties imposed were the result of the traffic in marihuana and cocaine and of irregular practices in the use of narcotic drugs.

The principal cases are as follows:

The magistrate of the fifth national police court sentenced Donaldo de la Torre to two and a half years' imprisonment in a penal colony on a charge of trafficking in marihuana.

The Inspectorate of Pharmacies, Medellín, reports the discovery of the following cases of illicit traffic in cocaine:

"Pharmacy PEREZ - Pharmacist-owner, Alfredo Perez R. During an inspection visit to this pharmacy a deficiency of one (1) gramme of cocaine hydrochloride was discovered. In view of this, stocks of the drug amounting to twenty-four (24) grammes were removed and sent to the National Institute of Health for analysis. In its report 373404 the Institute stated: 'The analysis carried out indicates that the substance concerned was novocaine with traces of cocaine.'

WILLIAM MONTOYA AGUDELO - an employee of the Pharmacy Perez, twenty-four years of age, and a resident of Medellín. Four grammes eighty centigrammes of a substance which Montoya was offering for sale as cocaine at 30.00 pesos (US\$11.94) a gramme was confiscated from him. The seizure was effected as a result of information given by Guillermo Sanudo Uribe, a registered drug addict. The analysis made by the National Institute of Health showed that the powder which Montoya was selling was a mixture of approximately 50 per cent cocaine and 50 per cent novocaine.

JAIME LOPEZ E. As a result of information laid by the same drug addict, Sanudo, three grammes seventy centigrammes of a powder which he was selling as cocaine was confiscated from him. The report of the analysis carried out by the National Institute of Health stated that the substance reacted positively to tests for cocaine hydrochloride."

The aforementioned facts are known to the Municipal Criminal Investigation Department of Medellín in whose charge the accused, Montoya and Lopez, were placed.

The same Inspectorate of Pharmacies imposed the following fines:

Manuel Quintero R - 100 pesos (US\$39.80); *Victoriano Velilla* - 100 pesos (US\$39.80); *Hernan Arenas* - 50 pesos (US\$19.90); *Hernando Aristizabal* - 100 pesos (US\$39.80); *Pedro P. Pelaez* - 50 pesos (US\$19.90); *Dario Gutierrez V* - 100 pesos (US\$39.80).

The Inspectorate of Laboratories and Pharmacies of Bogotá reports the following cases of seizures made in certain pharmaceutical establishments because of non-compliance with the regulations governing the trade in narcotic drugs:

Mercurio drugstore - owner: Guillermo Alfonso Parra
Paregoric elixir 60 c.c.
Fluid extract of coca 90 c.c.

Lirio drugstore - owner: Liborio Valenzuela	
Paregoric extract	45 c.c.
Paregoric elixir	110 c.c.
Lopez drugstore - owner: Lilia de Bernal	
Sydenham laudanum	460 c.c.
Santander drugstore - owner: Carlos Jimenez Guerra	
Paregoric elixir	140 c.c.

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. RAW OPIUM

There are no opium poppy plantations in Colombia, the plant being grown for ornamental purposes only.

VIII. COCA LEAF

In order to combat the traffic in, and use of, marihuana, the Ministry of Health requested the Director of the National Police to keep a special watch for such offences, which are a serious menace to public health, and reminded him that Decrees 925 of 1949 and 1858 of 1951 prohibit the cultivation of, and traffic in this plant, and that Colombia is bound under the international conventions on narcotic drugs to arrest and punish those responsible. Communications to the same effect were sent to the Governor of the Department of Magdalena, the health authorities of Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Cali and Manizales; the permanent magistrate attached to the national police, the magistrate of the seventh national police court of Medellín and the magistrate of the fifth national police court of Bogotá.

IX. INDIAN HEMP

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The Narcotics Section Submitted the following memorandum on these activities:

"It would appear advisable for a decree to be promulgated appointing a group of not more than 50 members of the national police who would be specially responsible after training for the campaign against traffickers in, and smokers of, marihuana, strictly enforcing Decree 923 of 1949, for which purpose they should work in co-operation with the health authorities of the respective departments and municipalities. Part of this group should be entrusted with the campaign against cultivators of the coca plant and vendors of coca leaves. Bearing in mind the difficulties encountered in applying Decree 896 of 1947 on coca, and the conclusions and recommendations of the commission set up by the United Nations Economic and Social Council to study this problem in Peru and Bolivia, and considering that the situation is very similar in Colombia, it would be very useful if Decree 896 were amended in the following sense:

Prohibition of new plantations of coca bushes and the gradual destruction of those at present existing, so that at the end of five years they will have completely disappeared. Replacement of the destroyed coca bushes by crops beneficial to the peasants. At the same time an educational campaign should be launched among coca leaf chewers and their families in order to show them the harmfulness of such a habit and the advantages of an improved diet, in which the coca leaf plays no part. For this purpose schools should be set up in the rural areas where this habit is most prevalent."

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. INTERNAL CONTROL OF MANUFACTURED DRUGS

5. *Manufacture of and Trade in Diacetylmorphine*

Decree 1959 of 1939 prohibits the importation of this drug and of products containing it into Colombia, and also its manufacture. As of 31 December 1952, 22 grammes of this drug, which had been imported before the Decree went into effect, remained on hand.

MANUFACTURED DRUGS - PATENT MEDICINES

The Legal Department of the Ministry of Health granted permission in 1952 to the Biological Laboratories at Manizales to change the name of the product known as ANADOL (See the 1950 report*) to MORFINAL. This product contains 1 centigramme of morphine hydrochloride in each ampoule of 1 c.c.

To complete this report, figures** are given below for the consumption of narcotic drugs in the year under review. The sale of the drugs listed was made through the warehouse of the Narcotics Revolving Fund and resulted in a profit of 116,519.40 pesos (US\$46,374.72) to the National Treasury.

* *Note by the Secretariat:* See E/NR.1950/52

***Note by the Secretariat:* The Annual Report contains a list showing the quantities of drugs sold to laboratories, pharmacies, departmental warehouses and hospitals and charitable institutions. This list is kept in the archives of the Secretariat.

