



UNITED NATIONS

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## LAWS AND REGULATIONS

PROMULGATED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS 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

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## CUBA

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF  
CUBA

### NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with 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, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the following legislative text.

*New York, 1952*

Original: Spanish

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL WELFARE

General Health Department

CIRCULAR No. 844

Havana, 26 March 1951

To the Head of the local Health Office

Sir:

The National Board of Public Health and Social Welfare, at a meeting held on 17 November 1950, took the following action:

"Havana, 19 January 1951.-- To the Director of Public Health:

Sir: The National Board of Health and Welfare, at a special meeting held on 17 November 1950, considered and approved the following report which is reproduced in its entirety:

'Havana, 16 November 1950.-- To the National Board of Health:

Gentlemen: As ordered by the Board on 26 August 1950, a letter from the Chief of the Narcotic Drugs Section concerning the product known as Dolophine, manufactured by Lilly and Co., was referred to the Pharmaceutical Member for an opinion. In that connexion, I have the honour to transmit to you the following information:

'Dolophine is the trade name of a synthetic substance of analgesic properties, which has many of the same pharmacological properties as morphine, and which the Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association has designated by the name of Methadone hydrochlorate. Its chemical composition is 6 - dimethylamine 4.4 - diphenyl 3, - heptanone. Other trade names for the same substance are Methadone, Amidone, 10820, Physeptone, Adanon, Diaminon (Parke Davis and Co.). The Journal of the American Medical Association contains several references to its clinical uses: 1947, page 888; 1948, page 651 and page 801.

'From investigation it would appear that the handling and sale of the product should be subject to the same prescriptions and restrictions as morphine. Accordingly, the Board should authorize its importation and distribution in Cuba and regard it as a drug similar to morphine, in view of the fact that the Board, at a meeting on 11 November 1947, approved an opinion submitted by Dr. Gerardo Fernandez Abreu, at that time Pharmaceutical Member, an opinion which was also approved by the Minister a few days later, on 18 November, and which authorized, subject to the same restrictions, the importation and distribution of Diaminon (hydrochlorate), a product manufactured by Parke Davis and Company, which is merely another trade name for the substance designated as Methadone by the Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. Notwithstanding, the Board will decide, on the basis of its superior judgment, what is the best course to take.

(Signed) FRANCISCO DE LA CERRERA, Pharmaceutical Member"

The foregoing opinion having been approved by the Minister, I am communicating it to you, in order that your office may carry out the provisions thereof, by virtue of which the handling and sale of the product Dolophine, manufactured by the Lilly Laboratories, are subject to the same prescriptions and restrictions applying to morphine.

Yours, etc.

(signed)

Director-General of Health