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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Seventh session
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

ABOLITION OF OPIUM-SMOKING IN THE FAR EAST
Reports submitted by Governments in accordance with
Economic and Social Council resolution 159 II B. (VII)

Note by the Secretary-General: Since 11 January 1952, the date of issue of document E/CN.7/229, the Secretary-General has received reports for 1950 on the abolition of opium-smoking in the Far East from the following Governments:

Cambodia

France (for French India)

Japan

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for North Borneo)

2. During the same period, the Secretary-General also received the following report for 1951:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (for Singapore).

3. The Secretary-General accordingly has the honour to communicate the text of the reports to the Members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

(26 February 1952) ^{1/}

CAMBODIA

PART ONE:

1/ Note by the Secretariat: This report was communicated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia in response to a request by the Secretary-General dated 6 September 1951 concerning Cambodia's progress report on the abolition of opium-smoking. In his covering note the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cambodia points out that until 1 January 1951 the French High Commissioner in Indochina was responsible for narcotic drug control. The position in Cambodia with regard to opium for smoking was described in Annex 7 of the High Commissioner's general report to the United Nations on the situation in Indochina. In its reply, the Government of Cambodia has accordingly reproduced the relevant part of the High Commissioner's report.

continued in 1950 to apply the provisions of the Order of 3 September 1948.

The Order, which is the basic law on opium in Indochina, was analysed in the 1948 annual report. It will suffice to recall the main control measures:

1. The direct sale of opium by the Revenue Offices and Boards (Rocettes des Douanes et Régies) to registered smokers only for disintoxication under medical supervision.
2. Registration of smokers on production of medical certificate.
3. Progressive annual reduction of rations with a view to the final abolition of the sale of opium by 1 January 1954.

Since 1 January 1950 no European smoker has had his card renewed.

Since that date the rations of Asiatic smokers have been reduced by 20 per cent.

The following table in which smokers are classified in categories and the monthly rations given in grammes shows the rate at which rations are being reduced:

<u>Category of smoker</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
First	25	20	15	10	5	Nil
Second	50	40	30	20	10	"
Third	75	60	45	30	15	"
Fourth	100	80	60	40	20	"
Fifth	125	100	75	50	25	"
Sixth	200	160	120	80	40	"

It should, however, be noted that the measures cannot be fully applied everywhere, as some parts of Indochina are still outside the control of the Administration as a result of the disturbances.

In some cases the registration of smokers in Northern Viet-Nam and Laos could not be carried out in completely satisfactory conditions because of the unsettled political situation and the smuggling of opium from China, Thailand or the imperfectly controlled producing areas in Northern Viet-Nam and Laos.

In this connexion the Board was obliged to purchase raw opium in Laos and Northern Viet-Nam in 1950 in order to withdraw part of the local production from circulation. But the success of the disintoxication campaign is obviously dependent not only upon strict control of production but also upon the efficiency of the anti-addiction campaign in the countries bordering on Indochina.

PART TWO:

Statistics of the Indochinese Monopoly:

1. Stocks on 31 December 1949

Raw opium: none.

Chandu ready for packing

25,987 kg.

Chandu packed at factories

933 "

Chandu packed in revenue offices

1,326 "

2. Purchases of raw opium in 1950

Northern Viet-Nam: 553,014 kg. (delivery taken in 1951)

Laos: 415,300 kg.

3. Seizures of opium in 1950.

	<u>Raw</u>	<u>Prepared</u>
Northern Viet-Nam	264,867	26,272
Central Viet-Nam	0,-	0,030
Southern Viet-Nam	23,851	2,820
Cambodia	0,050	2,953
Laos	146,519	14,149
Total	435,287	46,224

4. Sales by Revenue Offices and Boards:

Viet-Nam

8,380,560

Northern Viet-Nam

378,790

Central Viet-Nam

674,710

Southern Viet-Nam

7,327,060

Cambodia

1,798,710

Laos

35,775

Total**10,215,045**

5. Stocks on 31 December 1950

At factories:

Raw opium

823,232

Chandu in bulk

14,833,900

Packed opium

1,956,445

In revenue offices: Packed opium

Northern Viet-Nam

224,800

Central Viet-Nam

116,320

Southern Viet-Nam

337,675

Cambodia

463,880

Laos

16,585

Total**1,159,260**

6. Number of registered smokers in 1950

/First

	First Category	Second Category	Third Category	Fourth Category	Fifth Category	Sixth Category
Northern Viet-Nam	48	180	222	261	133	72
Central Viet-Nam	39	229	172	172	257	82
Southern Viet-Nam	459	1,338	1,296	1,435	903	1,914
Cambodia	24	223	184	397	277	457
Laos	33	25	11	9	10	2
Total	603	1,986	1,885	2,274	1,480	2,527

FRENCH INDIA

(28 January 1952)

In the annual report for the year 1950 concerning the French Republic and the territories for the foreign relations of which the Republic is responsible (E/NR.1950/67) it is stated that, in line with the decisions taken by the Government of India, the sales in French India of opium, which is used for eating rather than smoking, have been reduced annually by 10 per cent and that no difficulties were encountered in applying this decision.

JAPAN

(28 January 1952)

At present Formosa and Kuantungchou, where opium smoking was authorized, are not under control of Japan.

The use of any narcotic in Japan, except for medical or scientific purposes, is prohibited. The possession or use of smoking-opium is prohibited. There have been and will be no imports or exports of prepared opium or of raw opium for the manufacture of prepared opium.

In view of the above, Resolution 159 II B (VII) of 3 August 1948 of the Economic and Social Council is not considered applicable to Japan: neither does the report mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Resolution appear necessary.

/NORTH BORNEO

NORTH BORNEO
(13 February 1952)

During 1950 there were no imports of prepared opium or chandu. No opium was imported for the purpose of manufacturing prepared opium.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise reports that seizures of smuggled supplies for the year amounted to -

Opium Chandu - 1.488 Kg.
Chandu Dross - .085 Kg.

Thirty five cases were brought before the Court involving 61 persons being prosecuted of whom 44 were convicted. These were mostly among timber cutters, ship's firemen and peddlers. \$8,250 were imposed as fines of which \$6,200 were actually paid.

SINGAPORE
(7 March 1952)

The duty of implementing the policy of total Suppression of Opium Smoking has remained entirely that of the Customs Department during the year under review.

As stated in previous reports the resources of the Customs Department are inadequate to deal effectively with both the illegal import of opium and the illegal consumption of opium which escapes detection on import. Emphasis has therefore continued to be placed on prevention of import rather than suppression of consumption.

2. Laws

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No: 7 of 1951, came into force on 1 March 1951, and superseded the Opium and Chandu Proclamation No: 43 of 1946.

3. Number of Addicts

It is not possible to form a reliable estimate of the number of addicts in the Colony.

/4. Sources

4. Sources of Supply

Most of the opium seized in Singapore during the year came by sea from Chinese ports, but imports from Indian, Persian Gulf and Siamese ports were also detected.

5. Most of these imports were found secreted in various parts of the importing vessels and in some cases the structure of the vessel has been damaged to make a place of concealment.

6. Seizures of Opium

During the year 7,172.88 lbs. (3260.4 Kilogrammes) of raw opium and 287.06 lbs. (130.48 Kilogrammes) of prepared opium were seized. Very little prepared opium was seized on ships and the little that was seized was known or suspected to be for export.

7. In order to prevent dumping, and subsequent recovery, of opium from ships, all suspect vessels were escorted into port and on arrival guards were placed on board. As soon after arrival as possible such vessels were thoroughly rummaged.

8. Substantial seizures of opium have been made on land during the year proving that, despite every effort made to prevent its import, large quantities of opium were still landed in Singapore. It is pointed out, however, that all opium landed was not necessarily for consumption in Singapore. In fact, there is evidence to show that fairly large quantities were taken from Singapore to the Federation of Malaya. Several motor cars have been seized during the year when about to leave Singapore via the Johore Causeway which on examination were found to be carrying opium in specially constructed hiding places.

9. Action Against Opium Consumers

At the end of the year there were 1,803 smoking saloons known to the Department. A complete record of known saloons is kept and as many as possible frequently visited by officers of the Customs Department. As a result of these visits 46 saloons were known to have closed down but a further 198 new addresses were added to our records.

/During the

During the year there were 754 raids on smoking saloons resulting in the seizures of 2,977 opium pipes (532 extra heads) and 2,506 lamps.

10. The price of opium per pound varied as follows:-

	<u>Highest</u>	<u>Lowest</u>
	\$	\$
Calcutta	635/-	545/-
Rangoon	370/-	260/-
Swatow	410/-	280/-
Yunnan	325/-	215/-

11. Opium pipes cost about \$40/- each and lamps \$10/-.

12. The following tables are appended.

"A" Seizure of Opium of 50 pounds and over on board vessels in the port of Singapore during 1951.

"B" Statement of Raw and Prepared Opium seized during 1951.

/APPENDIX "A"

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APPENDIX "A"

SEIZURES OF OPIUM OF 50 POUNDS AND OVER ON BOARD VESSELS IN THE PORT OF SINGAPORE DURING 1951

Date	Name of Steamer	Nationality	From	Weights		Where Found
				Pounds	Tahils	
6.5.51	m/v "LYRIA"	British	Abadan	101.-	1,212	On the deck.
18.5.51	s.s. "TAIREA"	British	Rangoon	1,636.-	19,632	Spacing between the floor-board and No: 8 tank-top.
31.5.51	m/sampan SC 6024	Unknown	Unknown	171.-	2,052	Front and rear compartments of the motor sampan.
10.6.51	Sampan No: 215/51	Unknown	Unknown	82.-	984	In front compartment of sampan.
10.6.51	Twokov No: 1402/51	Unknown	Unknown	125.-	1,500	In Twakow, amongst tapioca waste.
22.6.51	m/boat SMF No: 58	Unknown	Unknown	55 ¹ / ₄	663	In the holds of the vessel.
4.10.51	m/s "SINGAPORE"	Dutch	Unknown	52.-	624	Fourth Engineer's Cabin;
11.11.51	s.s. "NURJEHAN"	Panama	Calcutta	82.13 ozs.	988.75	In the coal bunker.
18.11.51	m/boat SC 8324	Unknown	Unknown	99.-	1,188	In the motor boat.

/APPENDIX "B"

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APPENDIX "P"

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, SINGAPORE
STATEMENT OF RAW AND PREPARED OPIUM SEIZED DURING 1951

Month	In Vessels in Singapore Harbour		On Land		Total	
	Opium Tahils	Prepared Opium Tahils	Opium Tahils	Prepared Opium Tahils	Opium Tahils	Prepared Opium Tahils
January	744.-	2.-	99.-	133.72	843.-	135.72
February	28.-	5.86	619.-	208.52	647.-	214.38
March	30.-	.2	487.62	121.04	527.62	122.14
April	234.-	26.1	17,741.66	258.48	17,975.66	284.58
May	22,938.-	35.3	19,193.75	445.24	42,136.75	480.54
June	2,573.3	7.85	10,251.75	208.73	12,825.05	216.58
July	495.4	-	148.3	153.58	643.7	153.98
August	1,100.3	76.08	1,313.9	113.06	2,414.2	189.14
September	496.06	36.54	390.36	380.21	886.42	417.35
October	811.-	37.31	994.5	187.89	1,805.5	225.2
November	2,217.75	11.34	1,406.-	808.38	3,623.75	819.72
December	24.-	8.5	1,722.-	176.96	1,746.-	185.46
Total in Tahils	31,691.81	247.08	54,382.84	3,197.71	86,074.65	3,444.79
Total in Pounds	2,640.98	20.59	4,531.9	266.47	7,172.88	287.06
<u>1948</u>						
Total in Tahils	48,044.-	106.-	6,594.-	2,751.-	55,038.-	2,857.-
Total in Pounds	4,003.6	8.8	528.8	229.2	4,586.-	238.-
<u>1949</u>						
Total in Tahils	30,583.95	356.49	24,644.55	3,352.79	55,228.5	3,709.28
Total in Pounds	2,548.66	29.71	2,053.71	279.4	4,602.37	309.11
<u>1950</u>						
Total in Tahils	20,896.-	371.33	55,265.45	2,417.19	76,161.45	2,788.52
Total in Pounds	1,741.34	30.95	4,605.45	201.43	6,346.79	232.38