



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.7/232/Add.4
24 April 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

121

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Seventh Session
Provisional agenda item 11(a)

CHAPTERS V OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1951 SUBMITTED
BY GOVERNMENTS UNDER THE 1931 CONVENTION

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Commission the Chapter V (Illicit Traffic) of the Annual Report for the year 1951 of the Government of Burma.

BURMA 1951

As in the previous years, opium, morphia and hemp drugs were continued to be smuggled into the country both by land and sea from India, China and U.K. The illicit traffic in opium was the heaviest, while that in morphia and hemp drugs (ganja) was not so heavy as compared with opium. During the year under review, the Rangoon Customs reported 18 cases of seizures of opium, of which 4 related to illegal import of opium reported to be of Indian origin while the remaining 14 related to illegal export of opium reported to be of Burma origin. The total quantity seized by the Customs Department in all these seizures was 323 lbs. 3½ ozs. (146.818 Kgs.). Apart from the illicit traffic in opium by sea into Burma as mentioned above, there were also 586 cases of seizures of opium smuggled into Burma by land from China, Yunnan and Pakistan of which 565 were made in the Bhamo District, 18 in the Akyab District and the remaining 3 in the Myitkyina District. The total quantity of opium seized in all these cases was 49,580 tolas (594.960 Kgs.). Opium was also smuggled into Burma proper from the Northern and Southern Shan States. During the year three remarkable record-breaking seizures of opium presumably intended for smuggling out of Burma to the Far Eastern Countries were made, of which two were made in the Rangoon Town District, one by the Police on 5 August 1951 on the Shwegondine Island, Bahan, Rangoon and the other by the Excise on 21 August 1951 near Mingaladon one after another within a short interval. The third one was made by the Pegu Excise Staff at Pegu on 2 October 1951 and these seizures merit record in the history of the Excise Department as worthy to be remembered and never to be forgotten.

During the year, only one report of seizure of opium from the Resident, Southern Shan State was received. According to the report received, opium smuggling was carried out on a large scale, through the Monghau state, in the North-Eastern Sub-division, and the smugglers were said to be Chinese who were fully armed and travelled in big caravans. It was reported that although it was known that opium was smuggled in large quantities yet the State Police could not possibly deal with these smugglers as they were fully armed with modern weapons. It was also reported that the exact quantity of opium, place and origin from which it was smuggled are however not known. The report also stated that opium was the only contraband smuggled and during the year two seizures were made of which one was at the Police Barrier at Kalaw i.e. entrance to Kalaw from Thazi on the

Thazi-Taunggyi Road and the other was at the Kalaw station. The origin from which the former was smuggled was Hsmongkham State, Southern Shan State District and it was hidden in gunny bags in a truck and the quantity seized was 12 viss and 96 ticals. The latter was from Taunggyi and it was hidden in a basket. It is also reported from Kengtung State (Eastern Shan State District) that during the year under report, 11 seizures of opium were made, in which 10 persons were prosecuted and convicted. The total quantity seized was 421 viss and 22 ticals (707.280 Kgs).

There was no illicit traffic in cocaine during the year under report. However, there were two petty seizures of morphine by the Customs Department. The morphine was reported to be of English origin.

During the year, there was also illicit traffic in ganja (Indian Hemp) smuggled out of Burma by sea. 7 seizures were made by the Customs Department and the total quantity seized was 67 lbs. 2 oz. (30.454 Kgs.). It was also reported that 3 seizures of ganja (Indian Hemp) smuggled from Pakistan into Burma were made in the Akyab District. Inside Burma, hemp drugs are grown by the hill people, especially on the Pegu Yomas, and it forms the principal source of supply to Indian consumers. Burmans have no taste for ganja.

2. There were no important changes reported as regards the extent of poppy cultivation and the hemp plant. The cultivation of opium poppy is prohibited throughout Burma proper. As reported in my previous report for the year 1950, clandestine cultivation of poppy in the Kachin and Shan States are still being suppressed and destroyed whenever discovered.

The cultivation of coca plant is prohibited throughout the country.

The cultivation of hemp drugs (ganja) is also prohibited throughout the country and the contraband hemp drugs (ganja) seized in the interior Burma are illicitly grown on the hills as stated above.

The extent of clandestine cultivation of poppy and hemp drugs (ganja) cannot be stated as no survey can be made of the areas where these are grown and also the quantities manufactured clandestinely.

3. Informations asked for under this item have been furnished in statements I and II attached to this chapter. The number of prosecutions and convictions for offences relating to opium, hemp drugs and other dangerous drugs are 1787, 386 and 1018 and 1603, 373 and 964 respectively.

4. Particulars of some of the important opium seizures effected during the year under report are described briefly below:

The most important opium seizures effected during the year under report are three record-breaking seizures which broke all the previous records ever made in the history of the Excise Department.

(1) An opium seizure amounting to 223,920 tolas (2687.040 Kgs.) contained in oil drums made on a deserted truck while aground on the Shwegondine Island, Bahan, Rangoon was made by the Rangoon Town Police on 5 August 1951.

(2) The above record-breaking seizure was followed by another record-breaking one of 235,627 tolas (2827.524 Kgs.) of opium by the Excise Intelligence Bureau on 21 August 1951 at 9th Mile (Mingaladon Area) in a truck No. 373574. The trial is proceeding in the District Magistrates' Court, Insein.

(3) The last record-breaking seizure for the Pegu District amounting to 84,600 tolas (1015.920 Kgs.) was made by the Pegu Excise Staff on 2 October 1951 near Pyinbongyi village, seven miles off Pegu in a lorry. The contraband opium was ingeniously concealed between cleverly constructed double flooring of the lorry in 18 gunny bags. In this case several arrests were made including some Police Officers from the district. The trial has since ended, resulting in the imprisonment of three accused, two of whom were Police Officers.

A part from the above, several other good seizures were made and they are as follows:

(4) 29,134 tolas (349.608 Kgs.) by the Meiktila Excise Staff at the Meiktila car checking point in a chevrolet truck No. R.5842 in June 1951.

(5) 16,240 tolas (194.88 Kgs.) by the Mandalay Excise Staff in July 1951 at the Mandalay railway station with the assistance of military authorities.

(6) 16,000 tolas (192 Kgs.) of opium hidden in gunny bags under baskets of oranges in chevrolet truck No. R.A7101 by the Yamethin Excise Staff in January 1951. The contraband opium was meant for a Rangoon smuggler whose address was given.

(7) 15,330 tolas (183.960 Kgs.) by the Yamethin Excise Staff at the Tatkon checking point in Yamethin district on 14 October 1951 on a truck R.C.4298 which came from Mandalay. The contraband opium was found in 4 bags beneath a load of 45 bags of grams, 30 bags of dried chillies, 3 bags of maize and 3 boxes of fried garlicks.

//(8) 14,555 tolas

(8) 14,555 tolas (173.460 Kgs.) of Chinese Hlawage opium in a Dodge 3 ton truck bearing No. R.C.6796 by the Meiktila Excise Staff at car checking point at Meiktila on 9 March 1951. This truck came from the Southern Shan State and the contraband opium was meant for a Rangoon smuggler.

(9) 13,965 tolas (167.580 Kgs.) of opium by the Tharrawaddy Excise Staff in June 1951 in five trunks in a special compartment in a railway train.

(10) 11,000 tolas (132 Kgs.) of opium by the Excise Intelligence Bureau at the Mingaladon aerodrome on 19 August 1951 with the accused who came from Heho with the contraband by plane.

5. For the statistics of total quantities of opium and other dangerous drugs (including prepared opium) seized during the year under report, please see statement I and II attached. The total quantity of opium (including prepared opium) seized during the year amounted to 12,907.378 Kgs. As regards Hemp drugs 1,453.582 Kgs. were seized in all. Seizures of other dangerous drugs were negligible.

Under the heading "other restricted drugs" the figures of prosecutions and convictions shown in columns 6 and 11 relate to offences in connexion with the possession of prepared opium generally in the form of beinsi i.e. crude opium clarified with water for smoking purposes and beinchi i.e. the refuse remaining in the opium pipes after smoking of beinsi mostly seized in the illicit opium smoking dens and the quantity seized is as shown in column 18. Since the enforcement of the Opium Den Suppression Act, 1950, in Rangoon Town District, where the anti-opium clinic scheme is in operation, drastic action is being taken in wiping out these opium dens and hunting down the keepers of such dens and as a result, no sizeable opium dens exist now-a-days. During the year, the number of raids made on such illegal opium dens was 8883 of which 3477 proved successful. In Rangoon, where such opium dens are the largest in the country 3632 such raids were made during the year of which 1020 raids were successful.

6. A statement showing variations in the wholesale prices of illicit opium per seer (0.94 Kgs.) district by district in Burma for the calendar year 1951 is also attached. The wholesale contraband price per seer (0.94 Kgs.) in districts through which opium entered into Burma ranged from Rs.120 to Rs.170 per seer (0.94 Kgs.) towards the close of the year.

Neither morphine nor cocaine and other dangerous drugs was available in the illicit market and wholesale and retail prices cannot therefore be furnished.

126-27

STATEMENT I

Statement showing the total number of seizures, prosecutions and convictions, etc., in respect of smuggling of opium and other dangerous drugs into Burma (from places outside Burma) during the calendar year 1951

No.	Particulars of drugs	Total number of seizures		Name of place of Origin		Total number of persons prosecuted		Total number of persons convicted		Penalties Imposed	Quantity of drugs seized	
		Import (3)	Export (4)	Import (5)	Export (6)	Import (7)	Export (8)	Import (9)	Export (10)		Import (12) (Kgs.)	Export (13)
1.	Opium	604	-	India, Burma, China, Pakistan and Yunnan.	-	580	-	560	-	Fines and Imprisonment	742.102	-
2.	Morphia	2	-	English	-	2	-	2	-	-do-	312 phials.	
3.	Cocaine			Nil								
4.	Hemp Drugs (ganja)	10	-	Burma and Pakistan.	-	3	-	3	-	-do-	30.874	
5.	Other restric- ted drugs.			Nil								

STATEMENT II

Statement showing the total number of prosecutions and convictions (with an indication as to the nature of offence leading to conviction) for offences (other than smuggling from places outside Burma which are shown in statement I) relates to dangerous drugs separately, quantity of each drug seized and penalties imposed during the year 1951.

Country	Total number of prosecutions (persons)					Total number of convictions (persons)					Nature of offences leading to convic- tions	Penalties imposed	Quantity of drugs seized				
	Opium	Morphine	Hemp drugs	Cocaine	Other restricted drugs	Opium	Morphine	Hemp drugs	Cocaine	Other restricted drugs			Opium	Morphine	Hemp drugs (ganja)	Cocaine	Other restricted drugs
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
													(Kgs.)		(Kgs.)		(Kgs.)
Burma	1207	-	383	-	1018	1043	-	370	-	964	Smuggling illicit sale and possession of drugs.	Fines and imprisonment	12114.504	-	1422.708	-	50.772

/Statement showing

Statement showing the movements of the wholesale prices of opium per seer (0.94 Kg.) in the illicit market in Burma during the calendar year 1951

District	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Akyab	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Kyaukpypu	1,600 (Indian)	1,500-1,600 (Indian)	1,500-1,600 (Indian)	1,500-1,600 (Indian)	1,500-1,600 (Indian)	1,500-1,600 (Indian)	900-1,000 (Shan)	800-880 (Shan)	800-850 (Shan)	750-850 (Shan)	750-850 (Shan)	750-800 (Shan)
Sandoway	(From January to May Rs.850/-, from June to September Rs.950/- and from October to December Rs.850/-).											
Hanthawaddy	Rs.640/- at the beginning of the year to Rs.800/- at the close of the year.											
Insein	640	560	640	640	720	640	560	640	560	560	480	400
Tharrawaddy	Rs.450/- to Rs.500/-											
Prome	500	500	450-500	400-450	400	400	350-400	350-400	370-400	400-450	400-450	350-400
Bassein	650-800	650-1,800	650-1,600	650-1,600	650-1,300	650-1,100	650-1,100	650-1,300	650-1,100	650-1,100	600-650	650-700
Henzada	Rs.500/- and Rs.550/-											
Myaungmya	850-900	850	850-900	800-900	750	700-750	700-750	600-700	600-700	600	600	600-650
Maubin	600	600	650	700	700	600	650	650	650	650	650	600
Pyapon	900	900	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	900	1,000	1,000
Thaton	640-750	640-750	640-750	640-750	580-690	850-1,000	690-800	750-880	750-880	750-880	580-640	580-640
Amherst	Rs.400/- to Rs.550/-											
Thayetmyo	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	400-600	450-500
Minbu	450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500	460	465	425	500	500	450	400-450
Yenangyaung	450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500	400	450	450	400	450	400	400	450
Pakokku	450	430	430	400	400	400	375	375	350	350	350	400
Mandalay	250	225	225	225	225	210	210	230	240	240	280	260
Meiktila	200	185	114	114	114	142	160-180	160-180	170-185	200	200	200-217
Yamethin	250	225-250	200-225	200-225	200-225	200	225	250	250	250	250	250
Myingyan	January to May between Rs.257/- to Rs.286/- and June to August between Rs.286/- to Rs.314/- and from September to December between Rs.324/- to Rs.392/-											
Bhamo	160-170	137-160	140	115-135	115	120-140	175	145-170	130-145	135-145	135-145	135-145
Myitkyina	240	220	145	145	145	150	170	170	175	175	170	170
Sagiang	Rs.300/- to Rs.325/-											
Lower Chindwin	Rs.400/- to Rs.450/-											
Upper Chindwin	Rs.400/- to Rs.450/-											
Rangoon	Rs.450	375-400	335-350	325-350	325-350	375-400	360-380	380-400	-	360-380	360-380	360-380