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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 chapter V (Illicit Traffic) of the annual report for the year 1951 received from the Government of the Netherlands on 14 April 1952.

During the year under review an increased activity in the field of drug-smuggling could be observed. A total quantity of 60 kilogrammes of opium was seized, the largest quantity seized after the war. Nearly all this opium had been smuggled into this country by sailors, mostly Chinese, and the greater part of the seizures took place in the largest port of our country, Rotterdam.

The price now paid for smuggled opium is about \$180.- a pound (453.6 grammes) (f. 700.-)

Two important seizures took place during the year under review. One of these seizures took place at Rotterdam. After the local police had learned that opium was regularly smuggled from the Netherlands to Indonesia with the m.v. "Willem Ruys" and that various Chinese living at Rotterdam were alleged to be involved in this smuggling, the ship (which was already on the point of departure) was searched after confidential information had been received that 70 pounds (31 kilogrammes 751.4 grammes) of opium would be smuggled to Indonesia with the ship in question. In one of the cabins, inhabited by Chinese, after a board had been unscrewed from the wall, a hole was discovered in the wall. The screws with which the board had been fixed to the wall were nearly all slack

in the screwholes. It was clear that the board had been removed and refixed several times. In the hole between the walls of the two adjacent Chinese cabins about 45 packages of opium were found with a total weight of about 45 pounds (20 kilogrammes 411.7 grammes).

The opium consisted partly of pieces of about one pound and of the well-known sticks of the Iranian type. The whole quantity was probably intended to be sold in the illicit trade in Indonesia. The same secret receptacle also contained a certain amount of foreign currency consisting of 174 Pounds Sterling (\$487.20) and 33 gold ten-dollar pieces. In connexion with this smuggling three Chinese were arrested on board the ship at Rotterdam before the ship left, while a fourth Chinese was arrested and taken ashore when the ship was already at sea off the Hook of Holland. But this Chinese appeared only to be concerned with the smuggling of money. As it was suspected that the opium seized was not the total quantity on board the ship, the police in the first port of call, Port Said, was informed. When the ship arrived at Port Said, she was thoroughly searched but without any result. The Chinese who had been arrested in Rotterdam stated afterwards that the greater part of the opium seized belonged to the Chinese L.L. who was still on board the ship. But he could not be arrested as he had in the meantime signed off in Singapore.

The second important seizure of opium took place at Schiedam. Within the precincts of the dock and shipbuilding yard "Wilton-Feijenoord", Schiedam, a lodge-keeper held up a cab in the luggage accommodation of which a great number of boxes was found. The occupants of the cab suddenly took to flight and on further investigation it appeared that the boxes contained packages of opium. These packages, too, had been made of jute or canvas painted grey. A total of 54 packages containing about 50 pounds (22 kilogrammes 679.6 grammes) in all were seized. Each package contained about 20 sticks of opium of the well-known Iranian type. The matter was immediately examined and the police succeeded in tracing the presumed culprits. They appeared to be members of the crew of the tanker "Cleodora" moored alongside the dockyard referred to above. The ship had come from Japan and inter alia had called at Singapore and Aden where the opium had presumably been smuggled on board. The Chinese boatswain of the ship, named S., appeared to be one of the culprits. The opium was intended to be sold to a Chinese in Rotterdam. The latter, a certain T., one of the

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occupants of the cab, who had taken to flight could be arrested afterwards. As it was presumed on the strength of documents found in the possession of the Chinese S. that the latter kept a banking account in Singapore, the Singapore police was contacted. But it appeared that the Chinese concerned had not an account with a bank but that in the books of a Chinese money-lender a certain amount was standing to his debit. Both the customs and the Singapore police were interested in the activities of this money-lender. But these investigations did not lead to any further results.

By sentence of the police-court at Rotterdam S. was sentenced to 6 weeks' imprisonment, while the Chinese T. incurred 4 months' imprisonment. (In the annual report for 1950 the tanker "Cleodora" was also mentioned as a small quantity of opium was then seized on board the ship in Rotterdam).

Another case of opium smuggling was the seizure of 13 pounds (5 kilogrammes 896.7 grammes) of opium found in the possession of an inhabitant of Rotterdam, at the very moment when he was about to sell it to a Chinese. The opium had already passed through various hands and appeared to have been found in the pump compartment of the tanker "Murena" by labourers when they were cleaning the ship. A total amount of 23 pounds (10 kilogrammes 372.6 grammes) was found by the labourers. It consisted of the well-known sticks of the Iranian type. Of these 23 pounds of opium 10 pounds had in the meantime been sold by the persons concerned to an unknown Chinese in Rotterdam. (The tanker "Murena" was also mentioned in the annual report for 1949 as it was supposed that at the time a considerable quantity of opium had been smuggled into this country on board the ship in question).

The following case in which three members (Dutchmen) of the crew of the s.s. "Loenerkerk" were concerned proves that not only Chinese sailors occupy themselves with the smuggling of opium. After the head office of the "Nederlandse Scheepvaart Maatschappij", Rotterdam, had received a radio telegram from the captain of the s.s. "Loenerkerk" in which the latter informed the office that some members of the crew probably occupied themselves with the smuggling of opium, investigations were made immediately after the ship had arrived in the port of Rotterdam. When searching the members of the crew, the police found 579 grammes of opium on one of the men, a certain K. The opium had been sewn in an old lifejacket and hidden under K's clothes.

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On further investigation 870 grammes of opium were discovered hidden in a tin in the engine room. All the opium was in the well-known sticks of the Iranian type. Two other members of the crew appeared to have bought the opium in Iran with the intention of selling it in Rotterdam to Chinese. As they were afraid to take the opium from the ship themselves they had asked another member of the crew, (K. aforesaid) to do this for them.

By sentence of the police court at Rotterdam K. was sentenced to one month's imprisonment while the other two suspects incurred 2 months' imprisonment each.

In another case the Rotterdam detective force together with an officer of the Bureau arrested a waiter at the moment when he tried to sell 3 pounds (1 kilogramme 360.8 grammes) of opium. The waiter appeared to have received the opium some months before, from a German sailor, member of the crew of the Swedish s.s. "Gunda". This ship came from India where the sailor in question had probably bought the opium. When inquiries were made after this German it appeared that he had in the meantime signed off at Hamburg.

Besides seizures of opium there were a few cases in which morphine was seized. The greater part of the ampoules seized appeared to originate from stocks of the former German army. It seems, however, that this source is all but exhausted now.

One of the most important seizures of morphine was the seizure of 536 ampoules of morphine and 48 ampoules of dilaudide by the detective force in Amsterdam in co-operation with the customs detectives. In connexion herewith a certain D. was arrested who declared having bought the ampoules from a certain S. in Cologne and having smuggled them into the Netherlands in his car. By sentence of the police court D. was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment.

Only a few cases of traffic in "Hashish" or "Marihuana" cigarettes were reported during the past year. Occasionally these cigarettes are found among sailors (mostly coloured men) in the ports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam, and here and there are also smoked by prostitutes. The other day a woman was arrested in Rotterdam and was found to be in possession of 7 "hashish" cigarettes. In the neighbourhood of Amsterdam the police arrested a man who had offered a "Marihuana" cigarette to a woman in a dance-hall. This man also had a small packet of "Marihuana" with him (a few grammes). He declared having bought it in

a bar in Amsterdam for f 15.- (\$3.95). He had also bought some "Marihuana" cigarettes at the price of f 3.- (\$.80) each. As the proposed amendments of the Opium Act (providing for the punishment of having, in one's possession or applying Indian hemp - Hashish or Marihuana - ) have not yet come into force, the police cannot deal with the smoking of such cigarettes.

Just as was the case in previous years, a great number of rumours about drug traffic reached the office.

The contact with other countries was excellent. Information was regularly exchanged with the Bundeskriminalamt (Rauschgiftzentrale) at Hamburg. After information had been received that a German/Netherlands frontier in the neighbourhood of Venlo, had asked someone from Tegelen to find a market for morphine, an officer of the Office together with the German police succeeded in catching the German red-handed. A small number of ampoules of morphine could be seized.

From the German police information was received that a certain L. (Dutchman) had been arrested in Moers (Germany) in connexion with illicit drug traffic. 24 ampoules of morphine were seized. L. had received these ampoules from a German.

Information was also exchanged with the Commission Internationale de Police Criminelle in Paris. Various so-called "Internationale Signaleringen" (i.e. International Reports) about international smugglers of drugs were received as well as the well-known "Verzamelstaten". This commission also submitted a proposal to the effect that - if possible - action be taken against sailors who are guilty of smuggling drugs, by depriving them of their papers necessary for signing on (seamans book, passport, etc.) This proposal will be considered. The measures proposed will probably be considered too drastic so that it will be impossible to adjust them to the existing Netherlands legislation.

Contact was also kept up with the Home Office (Drugs Branch) in London. Furthermore reports were regularly received from the Bureau of Narcotics at Washington, concerning ships coming inter alia from Netherlands ports on board of which the American customs found narcotic drugs.

During the year under review the Inter-departmental Opium commission met several times.

The close collaboration with the Government inspection of public health was continued. Several times advice was given in connexion with the granting of

opium licences. Copies of licences for the import and export of narcotic drugs were regularly received from the Pharmaceutical Chief Inspectorate. Several reports on narcotic drugs were received from the Secretariat of the United Nations.

During the meeting of the Commission Internationale de Police Criminelle held at Lisbon from 11 to 15 June 1951 the combating of drug smuggling was discussed.

The customs at Rotterdam and Amsterdam and the river and harbour police were informed of the names of ships on board of which members of the crews had been found in the possession of drugs.

During the year under review some cases of addiction were reported to the Office. The morphinist T from Den B. well-known to the Office, was arrested in Groningen where she had succeeded in providing herself with drugs by fraudulent pretences. She was found in possession of 24 ampoules of morphine which, she said, she had illicitly bought in Amsterdam.

Moreover investigations were made with respect to prescriptions presented in a chemist's shop in B., in the name of a certain Mrs. de R. The prescriptions appeared to have been forged by a Mrs. P., a morphinist well-known to the Office, who had used the fictitious name: Mrs. de R.

Another addict stole a prescription from a physician at V. and presented these prescriptions in various chemist's shops in the North of this country with the object of obtaining Codinovo-tablets (a drug coming under the provisions of the Opium Act).

The number of addicts registered with the Office, increased by 7 (3 women and 4 men).

The Office kept up a regular contact with the officers of the Government and municipal police forces specially entrusted with the supervision of the smuggling of drugs, and with the officials of the Import Duties and Excise Duties, as well as with the Royal Constabulary.

By decree of the Minister of Social Affairs, dated 8 June 1951, a number of synthetic drugs e.g. (ketomebidon, bemidon, nisentil, isomethadon etc.) were added to the schedule of drugs controlled by the Opium Act.

A total of 20 seizures of drugs took place during the year under review. Besides the seizures mentioned above the following cases presented themselves;

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In the beginning of the year the district detective force of the government police at Utrecht arrested 4 persons on account of illicit drug traffic. 60 ampoules of morphine and 30 ampoules of eucodal were seized. The original packing of the ampoules had been removed. Very probably they originated from stocks of the former German army. Further investigations resulted in the arrest of 5 persons from the south of Limburg who had assisted in this traffic. It appeared that the ampoules seized had been smuggled into the Netherlands some years before by a German miner, living at Kerkrade (Netherlands).

The Utrecht detective force arrested a man who offered opium for sale. He appeared to be in the possession of a bottle containing 250 grammes of medicinal opium. The person in question, who was employed with a wholesale pharmaceutical firm, had stolen the opium from his employer.

The Royal Constabulary at Utrecht arrested a man who had stolen a number of bottles of drugs (e.g. Thebaine, cocaine and codeine) when in 1947, during his term of military service, he worked in the laboratory of the military hospital at Utrecht.

The district detective force at Almelo arrested two persons who were suspected of occupying themselves with illicit drug traffic. They were found in possession of 77 ampoules of morphine, presumably originating from stocks of the former German army.

Custom officers arrested a man (a Chinese) on board the Netherlands tanker "Lucita". The man had hidden  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of opium under his clothes. The suspect stated having bought the opium from a fellow countryman when his ship had called at London, with the intention of selling the opium to Chinese in Rotterdam.

In co-operation with an officer of the Office the Amsterdam detective force made enquiries, that in a house at that place, inhabited by a Chinese, opium was hidden. Behind a trapdoor  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilogram of opium was found.

Presuming that opium was hidden in the house of a prostitute in Rotterdam, the local detective force searched the premises. 3 pounds of opium were found hidden in the upholstery of an easy-chair. The suspect stated having taken charge of the opium for a Chinese. She refused to mention the name of this Chinese.

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As the police had been informed that Chinese members of the crew of the Netherlands m.v. "Kedoe" of the Koninklijke Rotterdamse Lloyd, which had arrived at the port of Rotterdam from Antwerp, were engaged in the smuggling of opium and that they would probably bring opium from Rotterdam to Amsterdam, the detective force in Rotterdam, in co-operation with the Office, investigated the matter. On the state road to Amsterdam a car was held up in which one of the Chinese members of the crew of the above-mentioned ship was found, he turned out to be in possession of 2 pounds (907.2 grammes) of opium. Further investigations made on board the ship showed two more Chinese to be in possession of 1-1/2 pounds (680.4 grammes) of opium. Although it was suspected that this was not the only opium on board the ship, it was not possible to find any more. The opium seized probably originated from Iran.

The first mentioned Chinese was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment, the other two were sentenced to one week's imprisonment.

The detective force in Amsterdam suspecting that opium would be found in a house inhabited by Chinese, instituted investigations in co-operation with the Office. One Chinese who was in possession of 9 powders of prepared opium (of 1 gramme each) was arrested. The Chinese declared that he kept the powders for his personal use. The district court in Amsterdam sentenced him to one month's imprisonment.

In Vlagtwedde the police arrested a café-keeper who was guilty of illicit drug traffic. One hundred ampoules of morphine were seized, the original packing of which had been removed. Very probably they came from the stocks of the former German army. The suspect declared that he had bought the ampoules in question from a German whose name he did not know.

Further, several persons were found to be in illicit possession of narcotic drugs. In two cases repatriated soldiers who had worked with a sanitary department were found to be in possession of several ampoules of morphine (i.a. at Arnhem and Deventer).

In Kerkrade the police found 5 tubes of solution of morphine tartrate at the house of one S. who declared that he had formerly been a hospital orderly with the American occupation forces.



The police in Venlo reported that some ampoules of morphine had been found along the railroad. The inquiries made with regard to the origin of these ampoules did not yield any results. It is considered possible that somebody brought the ampoules from Germany and threw them away when customs officers entered the train.

In the course of the year under review the following quantities of narcotic drugs were seized:

Opium	60,6 kilogrammes
Opium (medicinal)	250 grammes
Morphine (ampoules)	800
Morphine (tubes)	10
Eucodal	30 ampoules
Dilaudide	48 ampoules
Various drugs (thebaine, cocaine, codeine)	

Just before this report was closed, contact was established through the intermediary of the Commission Internationale de Police Criminelle in Paris, between the Office and two officers of the Bureau of Narcotics in Washington, temporarily working in Europe (Rome). These officers were especially sent to Europe in order to co-operate with the European police for the suppression of the smuggling of narcotic drugs from Europe to the United States.

They expressed their appreciation of the manner in which the suppression of the illicit traffic in this country was organized.

During a visit one of them informed the Office that a Chinese in New York had given him the contact address of a Chinese in Rotterdam. This Chinese proved to be well-known to the Office. He had for a long time been suspected of illicit opium traffic. It had, however, never been possible to prove this. The American officer now contacted the Chinese in question. During the conversation the Chinese offered some opium for sale. It had been agreed with the detective force in Rotterdam that the American officer would act as a pseudo buyer. The opium would be handed over to him at a hotel in Rotterdam. The sellers (two Chinese) appeared at the time agreed upon and were caught in the act of trying to sell the opium to the American officer. One of them turned

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out to be the Chinese who had since a long time been suspected of illicit opium traffic. The other Chinese was a member of the crew of the British s.s. "St. Bernard", berthed in the port of Rotterdam. Under his clothes he wore a smuggler's jacket in which 10 pounds (4 kilogrammes 535.9 grammes) of opium were found to be hidden. The opium had been smuggled into the country on board the above-mentioned ship.

The above-mentioned cases in which drugs were seized will prove that a thorough control, especially in the ports, is absolutely necessary.