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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Seventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 30 April 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

The report of the United Nations Commission of Enquiry on the Coca Leaf (E/1666-E/CN.7/AC.2/1, E/1666/Add.1/Rev.1-E/CN.7/AC.2/1/Add.1/Rev.1, E/1666/Add.3-E/CN.7/AC.2/1/Add.3, E/CN.7/235, E/CN.7/SR.118, E/CN.7/SR.119) (concluded)  
Abolition of opium smoking in the Far East (E/CN.7/229, E/CN.7/229/Add.1/Rev.1, E/CN.7/229/Add.1/Rev.1/Corr.1, E/CN.7/229/Add.2)

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. RABASA	Mexico
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. NIKOLIC	Yugoslavia
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. SHARMAN	Canada
	Mr. CHA	China
	Mr. MAHMOUD	Egypt
	Mr. VAILLE	France
	Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY	India

Members (continued):

Mr. ARDALAN	Iran
Mr. KRUYSSSE	Netherlands
Mrs. MELCHIOR	Poland
Mr. MONGE )	
Mr. AVALOS )	Peru
Mr. KAVADAR )	
Mr. OR )	Turkey
Mr. ZAKUSOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. WALKER	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. ANSLINGER	United States of America

Observers:

Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO	Bolivia
U BA MAUNG	Burma
Mr. DEVAKUL	Thailand

Also present:

Dr. WOLFF	World Health Organization (WHO)
Mr. MAY	Permanent Central Opium Board
Mr. MARABUTO	International Criminal Police Commission

Secretariat:

Mr. STEINIG	Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. LOPEZ-REY	Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. BOLTON	Secretary of the Commission

THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY ON THE COCA LEAF  
(E.1666-E/CN.7/AC.2/1, E/1666/Add.1/Rev.1-E, CN.7/AC.2/1/Add.1/Rev.1,  
E/1666/Add.3-E/CN.7/AC.2/1/Add.3, E/CN.7/235, E/CN.7/SR.118, E/CN.7/SR.119)  
(concluded)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that in accordance with the instructions of the Economic and Social Council the Commission should take all available information into consideration before reaching a decision on the problem of the coca leaf. The Chinese representative had made a proposal which had been

/supported by

supported by the United Kingdom representative and the Commission had before it the conclusions of the Commission of Enquiry, contained in its Report, and the views of the Peruvian Coca Leaf Commission. He drew particular attention to the recommendations proposed by the Commission of Enquiry (E/1666/Add.1/Rev.1, page 11) and the proposals of the Peruvian Coca Leaf Commission on pages 13 and 14 of its counter-reply (E/CN.7/235).

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should not, in his view, go beyond the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry but it must also take into account the considerations put forward by the Government of Peru. He thought that a compromise could be reached on which the Commission could base its recommendations to the Council. To expedite matters he proposed that the Commission should appoint a committee to draft the resolution along those lines.

The proposal was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the representatives of Peru, Egypt, France and Yugoslavia should be appointed to the Drafting Committee.

Mr. VAILLE (France) proposed that the United States representative should also be appointed to the Drafting Committee.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) said he would prefer not to serve on the Drafting Committee as he had very decided views on the coca leaf problem. He suggested, however, that the Committee might find it useful to consult with the Technical Assistance Administration and the Technical Assistance Board; they were conducting experiments in Peru which might be of interest.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Drafting Committee would take that suggestion into account in preparing its resolution. He put to the vote the proposed list of members of the Drafting Committee.

The proposed list was approved by 7 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should adjourn after concluding the debate on opium smoking in the Far East, which would enable the Drafting Committee to get on with its work.

It was so decided.

ABOLITION OF OPIUM SMOKING IN THE FAR EAST (E/CN.7/229,  
E/CN.7/229/Add.1/Rev.1, E/CN.7/229/Add.1/Rev.1/Corr.1, E/CN.7/229/Add.2)

At the invitation of the Chairman, U Ba Maung (Burma) and  
Mr. Devakul (Thailand) took seats at the Commission table.

Mr. CHA (China), referring to the 1950 report on the abolition of opium smoking submitted by the Burmese Government (E/CN.7/229), noted that steps had been taken to suppress opium dens, but wondered whether opium smoking was still permitted in private houses.

U BA MAUNG (Burma) thanked the Commission for inviting him to take part in its discussions. As he had not yet received instructions from his Government, he could not reply to that or any other question.

Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat) said that the only information available to the Secretariat on the abolition of opium smoking in Burma appeared in document E/CN.7/229.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) said that the Burmese Government's report showed that the police of that country had done very good work in suppressing opium smuggling. The report did not, however, refer to the origin of the opium seized. He was sure that the police had that information, and suggested that it should be included in future reports.

U BA MAUNG (Burma) said he would transmit the United States representative's comments to his Government.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), referring to the Indian Government's report for 1950 (E/CN.7/229), recalled a statement by the Indian representative at a previous session that opium smoking had been

/prohibited

prohibited throughout India. He noticed, however, that paragraph 3 of the report referred to special legislation regarding registered addicts.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (India) said that, although he did not have before him the statement to which the United States representative referred, he felt that it was correct inasmuch as, since 1946, the Indian Government had prohibited all opium smoking except by addicts registered at that time. As shown on pages 7 to 15 of the report, the number of such addicts was gradually decreasing. Most of the States had adopted legislation prohibiting opium smoking, and the use of opium except for medical and scientific purposes would be completely prohibited by 31 March 1959.

There were no comments on the 1950 reports submitted on the abolition of opium smoking in Pakistan, Cambodia, French India, Japan and North Borneo.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), referring to the 1951 reports on Singapore and Hong Kong, noted that opium was smuggled into Singapore from Thailand and from China into Hong Kong. Thailand was the only country which had legalized opium smoking, but he noted from the 1950 annual report submitted by that State that such smoking would be suppressed gradually. The Thai Government had not yet explained how, despite the fact that production and importation were both prohibited, seizures were so large that they supplied the opium sold in the government shops. Very light sentences were imposed on traffickers in opium, despite the fact that single seizures were very large. For example, a man involved in a seizure of about 9 tons of opium had been sentenced to fifteen days imprisonment.

Mr. DEVAKUL (Thailand), emphasizing that most of the opium smokers in Thailand were foreigners, said the Thai representative at the fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had given explanations of the problem to which the United States representative referred. As would be seen from a comparison of the 1948, 1949 and 1950 reports, the percentage of total revenues derived from opium had dropped from 7.2 to 4.8. It would be

/Very difficult

very difficult to find competent personnel and sufficient funds to enforce total prohibition all at once, and it would be useless to try to enforce it at the present time. The problem would probably be solved only in two or three decades.

Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat), explaining the procedure followed in connexion with reports submitted on the abolition of opium smoking in the Far East, said that the number and quality of the special reports received under Economic and Social Council resolution 159 II B (VII) of 3 August 1948 had been very disappointing. During the four years since the adoption of that resolution only thirty-eight reports had been received instead of the eighty-eight receivable, and of those only twenty-two could be considered satisfactory. The Commission might wish in due course to call the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the situation and perhaps to ask it to request governments in future to include such information in their annual reports instead of in special reports. The number of annual reports received from the countries concerned far exceeded the number of special reports submitted.

Under article 21 of the 1931 Convention it was the Commission's duty to draw up the questionnaire on which Governments based their annual reports in such a way as to obtain all the information it needed to discharge its functions. The questionnaire had last been revised in 1949 and since then the use of synthetic narcotic drugs had increased greatly. It might therefore be desirable to have additional information included on those drugs in the annual reports. The Secretariat considered that the questionnaire form should be improved and reference made in it to information on the abolition of opium smoking and any other data which the Commission might desire. If the Commission agreed to authorize the Secretariat to proceed in that way, a new draft form of annual report would be prepared and submitted to the Commission's eighth session in 1953, together with the necessary draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council requesting Governments to include information on the abolition of opium smoking in their annual reports instead of in the special reports required at present under the Economic and Social Council's resolution 159 II B (VII).

/Mr. ANSLINGER

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), supporting the suggestion made by the Secretariat, said he had noticed that very few special reports had been submitted.

The Commission approved the suggestion made by the Secretariat and requested the Rapporteur to include such a proposal in the report to the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

10/7 p.m.