



COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Seventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 1 May 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

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Illicit traffic: (a) illicit traffic during 1951
E/NS/1951/Summary 1, E/NS/1951/Summary 2)

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. RABASA	Mexico
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. NIKOLIC	Yugoslavia
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. SHARMAN	Canada
	Mr. HSIA	China
	Mr. MAHMOUD	Egypt
	Mr. VAILLE	France
	Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY	India
	Mr. ARDALAN	Iran
	Mr. KRUYSSSE	Netherlands
	Mr. AVALOS	Peru

<u>Members:</u>	Mrs. MELCHIOR	Poland
(cont'd)	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
Mr. DOSI	Italy

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. FULTON	Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. HUANG	Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. BOLTON	Secretary of the Commission

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY ON THE COCA LEAF; REPORT OF A COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY ON THE COCA LEAF AND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU (E/CN.7/L.13)

Mr. ZAKUSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had not received the Russian text of the drafting committee's report (E/CN.7/L.13) and requested that discussion of the draft resolution proposed in that document should be postponed until the following day.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) supported the USSR representative's request in view of the language difficulty.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR representative's motion for postponement of discussion of the drafting committee's report until the following day.

The USSR motion was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

ILLICIT TRAFFIC: (a) ILLICIT TRAFFIC DURING 1951 (E/NS/1951/Summary 1, E/NS/1951/Summary 2)

E/NS/1951/Summary 1

Mr. SHARMAN (Canada) referring to Case No. 25 (Hong Kong), asked whether the Secretariat had any further information with regard to the opium in question and specifically as to what part of China it might have come from.

Mr. HUANG (Secretariat) replied in the negative. The printing on the parcel was not an actual label, but merely indicated the usual shipping details.

Mr. VAILLE (France), with reference to Case No. 55 (Singapore), the largest seizure reported in document E/NS/1951/Summary 1, asked whether the Secretariat had received any further details and, particularly, whether any samples of the opium had been sent to the United Nations for analysis.

Mr. FULTON (Secretariat) said no such samples had been received. So far the United Nations had only been asking producing countries for authentic samples of their opium. His laboratory had also examined some samples taken from seizures of opium, most of them several years old, in order to check the tests used, but there had as yet been no request to countries in which large seizures were made to submit samples for analysis. He felt that more specific authorization should be given by the Commission if it desired the Division of Narcotic Drugs to try to determine the origin of current seizures.

/Mr. ANSLINGER

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), referring to seizures of prepared opium, said the sentences imposed appeared in all cases to be too light to deter traffickers.

Mr. VAILLE (France) referred to the very large quantity of morphine involved in Case No. 67. He asked what was the present situation in Germany and whether all the narcotic drugs which had disappeared at the end of the war had been recovered or whether other cases similar to Case No. 67 were likely to occur.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) said there had been another such case involving a German doctor, who had diverted some 500 kilogrammes of cocaine. If the new Central Narcotics Bureau of the Federal Republic of Germany acted as effectively in the future as it had in those two cases, he hoped that all the narcotics diverted would soon be recovered. It was interesting to note that the two large traffickers involved were both doctors.

Mr. MARABUTO (International Criminal Police Commission) said that in the case referred to by the United States representative, the ICPC had received warning and a group of traffickers had been arrested at Hamburg. It had been established that the cocaine in question was destined to the United States. He would keep the United States representative informed of any developments in the case.

Mr. VAILLE (France) wished to know whether an equally effective anti-narcotics campaign had been undertaken in the Eastern Zone of Germany.

With regard to Case No. 85, he asked the United States representative whether heroin seizures in Japan were still as frequent and involved such large quantities.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) said the heroin traffic in Japan had reached considerable proportions. He would deal with the situation later, at a more appropriate time.

E/NS/1951/Summary 2

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), with reference to raw opium seizures, pointed out that in many cases a positive statement was made that the opium was of Chinese or Iranian origin. In the seizures reported by the Egyptian Government, however, there was no indication of the source of the opium. He wondered whether the Egyptian representative could give any information on the subject.

Mr. MAHMOUD (Egypt) said his Government indicated the source of the opium when it knew it and in other cases said "source unknown".

Mr. SHARMAN (Canada), referring to Case No. 170, which involved a number of substantial seizures of opium in India, effected in 1949, asked whether any information was available as to the sentences imposed.

Mr. HUANG (Secretariat) said that those reports dealt only in a general way with the judicial proceedings.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (India) pointed out that there was always a time-lag between the actual seizure and the completion of judicial proceedings, particularly in view of the fact that once a seizure was made, the case was turned over to the police and the courts of the State concerned. His Government did submit information as to the sentences imposed in the form prescribed by the Secretariat.

The meeting was suspended at 12 noon and resumed at 12.25 p.m.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia), referring to Case No. 203 (British Zone of Germany), asked whether the offender had been sentenced for theft in the absence of narcotics legislation.

/Mr. HUANG

Mr. HUANG (Secretariat) said that Governments' reports on seizures did not always state clearly the specific offences with which the parties had been charged or for which they were convicted. If the Commission wished further information on the seizure discussed in Case No. 203, it could be requested from the Government concerned.

Mr. SHARMAN (Canada) pointed out that the authorities sometimes found it desirable to prosecute an offender under the Criminal Code rather than under the Narcotics Act, particularly if he was a key figure in the illicit traffic. The charges of conspiracy, for example, carried a very heavy penalty. Offenders could likewise be sentenced to confinement for an indefinite period under the Habitual Criminal Act. By way of illustration he mentioned Case No. 228, where the offender had been found guilty of conspiracy and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

In reply to Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia), Mr. SHARMAN (Canada) said that as a rule the heroin seized in the illicit traffic in Canada was of the same origin as that seized in the United States.

In reference to Case No. 241, he wondered whether the authorities had determined the nature of the drugs seized.

In reply to Mr. VAILLE (France), Mr. SHARMAN (Canada) explained that most of the heroin seized from peddlers in Canada was heavily adulterated.

Replying to a question by Mr. VAILLE (France), Mr. MAHMOUD (Egypt) said that he had nothing to add to the information on the illicit traffic in cocaine in Egypt contained in the Summary. That traffic was, however, of some concern to his Government. The authorities feared that the severe control being exercised over the black drugs in the Middle East had forced the illicit traffickers to increase their trade in the white drugs. In one Near Eastern country, for example, abundant supplies of cocaine had appeared in the illicit market.

He wondered whether the Turkish Government had noted a recent increase in the illicit traffic in cocaine.

/Mr. OR

Mr. OR (Turkey) explained that cocaine was rarely found in the illicit traffic in Turkey. In 1951, there had been only one significant seizure of Turkish cocaine, amounting to, he believed, several hundred grammes. The arrest had been made in Lebanon, and the person involved was a notorious Greek trafficker.

Mr. HUANG (Secretariat) said that the Secretariat had received no reports on seizures from the Lebanese Government in recent years and he could therefore give no further particulars about the case.

In reply to Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), Mr. DOSI (Italy) said that the Italian Government was energetically pursuing the fight against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, to such an extent that cocaine had almost completely disappeared from the illicit market. Effective medical regulations and police control had contributed to the success of the campaign. Statistics for the period 1947-1950 showed that 10 kg., 820 grammes of heroin and 39 kg., 258 grammes of other narcotic drugs, principally cocaine -- which was not of Italian origin -- had been seized in the illicit traffic.

Turning to the Canadian representative's question on Case No. 241, (E/NS/1951/Summary 2), he said the authorities had found that the drug was cocaine, and not heroin. The offender, Charles Trupia, had been sentenced to eighteen months in prison and had then been deported from Italy. He had been informed that United States narcotics agents were now watching Trupia's movements.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

10/7 p.m.