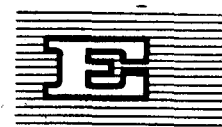


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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Tenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday 29 April 1955 at 11 a.m.

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CONTENTS

The problem of synthetic narcotic drugs (E/CN.7/L.109) (continued)

Protocol for limiting and regulating the cultivation of the poppy plant, the production of, international and wholesale trade in, and use of opium: Economic and Social Council resolution 548 C (XVIII) (E/CN.7/275 and Add.1, 285 and Corr.2, 287 and Corr.1; E/CN.7/L.108)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. VAILLE	France
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. SALDANHA	India
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HOSSICK	Canada
	Mr. TSAO)	China
	Mr. WEI)	
	Mr. LABIB	Egypt
	Mr. PANOPOULOS	Greece
	Mr. ARDALAN	Iran
	Mr. RABASA)	Mexico
	Mr. ROZENZWEIG)	
	Mr. CALLE Y CALLE	Peru
	Mr. FORYS	Poland
	Mr. OZKOL	Turkey
	Miss VASILYEVA	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. WALKER	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. ANSLINGER)	United States of America
	Mr. TENNYSON)	
	Mr. NIKOLIC	Yugoslavia
<u>Observers:</u>	Mr. TABIBI	Afghanistan
	Mr. WOULBROUN	Belgium
	Mr. DANNER	Federal Republic of Germany
	Mr. TANCREDI	Italy
	Miss YAMANE	Japan
	Mr. GRANDJEAN)	Switzerland
	Mr. WEISFLOG)	
<u>Also present:</u>	Mr. MAY)	Permanent Central Opium Board
	Mr. ATZENWILER)	
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>		
	Dr. HALBACH	World Health Organization

PRESENT: (cont'd)

Also present: (cont'd)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category B and Register:

Mr. NEPOTE

International Criminal
Police Commission

Mr. PENCE

World's Alliance of Young
Men's Christian
Associations

Secretariat:

Mr. YATES

Director, Division of
Narcotic Drugs

Mr. PASTUHOV

Secretary of the
Commission

THE PROBLEM OF SYNTHETIC NARCOTIC DRUGS (E/CN.7/L.109) (continued)

Synthetic narcotic drugs

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) asked the authors of the draft resolution E/CN.7/L.109 to explain why they had submitted the proposal.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) had little to add to what he had said earlier: an increasing number of addicts were turning to synthetic drugs; the danger was intensified by the discovery of new drugs every day, the harmful effects of some of which were not even realized by the medical profession. In the circumstances, it was essential to recommend that Governments should exercise the necessary control over synthetic drugs to prevent abuses. For those reasons, the Yugoslav delegation had joined the Turkish delegation in putting forward draft resolution E/CN.7/L.109.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) considered that the discussion in the Commission had dispelled all doubt concerning the real dangers of synthetic narcotic drugs. The percentages he had cited at an earlier meeting and the information given in the WHO reports, regarding the increase in the number of pethidine addicts, for instance, particularly among doctors who were not always aware of the dangers of the drug, were sufficiently eloquent. In that connexion, he drew attention to page 15 of report No. 95 of the WHO Expert Committee on Drugs Liable to Produce Addiction. The drug discussed was pethidine, but the same arguments could become applicable to other narcotic synthetic drugs. It was therefore essential to alert the medical profession and to recommend that Governments should take the necessary steps pending the coming into force - he hoped, in the near future - of the proposed single convention.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) could not support the draft resolution. It was for the WHO rather than the Commission - which was more of a legislative than a technical body - to express opinions on the advantages or

(Mr. Anslinger, USA)

disadvantages of synthetic drugs over natural narcotics. Moreover, the medical profession was already aware of the advantages of pethidine, over certain opium alkaloids, for instance. In addition, the Commission, at its ninth session, had adopted a resolution on narcotic synthetic drugs (see Economic and Social Council resolution 548 H (XVIII)). The joint draft duplicated that resolution.

The CHAIRMAN did not think that the word "disadvantages" used in operative paragraph 1 of the English text was a very accurate translation of the word "inconvenients" in the original French. The advantages and disadvantages of synthetic narcotics as against natural narcotics were not being compared, as the English text seemed to imply, but attention was being drawn to the harmful effects, recognized by the WHO and the Commission, of synthetic drugs from the point of view of addiction.

Mr. SALDANHA (India) suggested that to make the text clearer the words "of the disadvantages" should be replaced by the clause "of the special dangers to public health, if any, of any new narcotic drug which may be placed upon the market". As the whole draft resolution dealt with synthetic narcotic drugs, it was clear that the reference was to such drugs. Accordingly, he also suggested deleting the adjective "synthetic" in the operative paragraph 2.

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) was against the draft resolution, first because it duplicated the resolution already mentioned adopted by the Commission at its ninth session, and secondly, because he could not, for the various reasons he had given at length, accept the insistence on prohibition in operative paragraph 2.

Mr. HOSSICK (Canada) said that he too was unable to support the joint draft resolution. He fully agreed with the United States representative, and had also intended to remind the Commission that a very comprehensive resolution on synthetic narcotic drugs had been adopted at the ninth session. He would

(Mr. Hossick, Canada)

also recall the view of Dr. Eddy that synthetic narcotics were no more dangerous than opiates. He was speaking for a country using both types of drugs and could state that his opinions on the matter were shared by Canadian medical and scientific authorities.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) found the position of the United States representative paradoxical. On the one hand, he held that the Commission had no authority to put forward the draft under discussion, while on the other, he said that a similar text had already been adopted at the ninth session. He could see no objection to repeating a recommendation already made if it was useful, and it was useful, since the single convention was not yet in force. Moreover, there were precedents. With regard to the relative dangers of synthetic drugs and natural narcotics, he, like the Canadian representative, bowed to Dr. Eddy's opinion. Besides, the purpose of the draft resolution was not to draw a parallel. It was nonetheless true that the addiction-producing properties of natural narcotics like heroin and morphine, which had long been in use, were better known to doctors than those of the new drugs, of which there were very many. That was why they were dangerous.

He supported the amendments to the draft resolution suggested by the Indian representative.

Mr. PANOPOULOS (Greece) shared the view of the Yugoslav representative. He could give another example to show that doctors were often unaware of the dangers to which they exposed their patients. Ticarda had been prescribed for a long time as a cough medicine, even for very young children, without doctors being aware of the addiction-producing qualities of the drug.

Mr. SALDANHA (India) thought that the fact that prohibition of the drugs would be left to Governments would eliminate at least one of the United Kingdom representative's objections.

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) protested against the obsession to prohibit drugs which seemed to have seized some of the delegations. Moreover, the wording of the draft resolution was much too vague; the United Kingdom Government would not know what its commitments were if it accepted such a text.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), referring to the Greek representative's comment, pointed out that the same ignorance had been shown by doctors in the case of opium derivatives. A doctor had tried to prove to him that dilaudide did not have addiction-producing properties. Like the United Kingdom representative, he thought that the draft resolution was too vague and the obligations which it placed on Governments were far from clear.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) did not think that the Commission could specify how Governments must act. All that it could do was to draw their attention to certain facts. By its very nature such a resolution was bound to be vague.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of France, said he had been under the impression that representatives had been convinced of the danger of synthetic narcotic drugs by the information received from the Public Health Service Hospital at Lexington, the work of WHO and the discussions which had taken place in the Commission since 1951. Part of the danger lay in the large number of those substances, so that doctors knew very little about the properties of each one of them. That had also been the case at the beginning with heroin. He then gave an example of the ignorance of the medical community on that subject - an article on painless childbirth by an eminent practitioner, containing several mistakes about dolosal, had appeared in the November 1954 issue of a well-known and widely-read French publication.

The danger resulting from the ignorance of doctors as regards synthetic narcotic drugs was obvious. It was a fact which medical faculties and professional journals were continually emphasizing. The number of pethidine addicts, however, continued to increase. He felt that it was the Commission's duty, to use a word which had been used before, to become "obsessed" by the danger of drug addiction and to take all essential measures to combat that danger, whatever its origin.

With regard to the draft resolution, he thought that far from being too vague it was, on the contrary, too specific. The use of the word "indispensable" in paragraph 2 of the operative part, reduced its scope to very reasonable limits, and he had hoped that that draft would be unanimously adopted. As French representative, he would vote for the draft resolution, bearing in mind the amendment suggested to paragraph 1 of the operative part.

Mr. TSAO (China) said that he could not vote for the draft resolution which merely repeated certain ideas already expressed in Economic and Social Council resolution 548 H (XVIII). His experience of the Council's work led him to think that it would hesitate to take a decision which more or less repeated one of its former decisions. The draft before the Commission was conceived in too general terms and did not serve any precise purpose. If, nevertheless, the Commission decided to adopt it, it would be advisable to replace the word "derivatives" by a word which did not make the reader think of opium "derivatives".

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Commission should first decide on the principle of adopting a resolution on the subject.

The proposal was adopted by 7 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN then put the draft resolution to the vote paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph (a) was adopted by 8 votes to 3 with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph (b) was adopted by 8 votes to 4 with 3 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN put the beginning of paragraph (c) to the vote on the understanding that the word "derivatives" would be replaced by the word "products".

Paragraph (c) was adopted by 9 votes to 3 with 3 abstentions.

Mr. SALDANHA (India) suggested that States should be asked to warn the medical professions against the special dangers which new drugs put on the market might have for public health.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) asked that the wording selected should not exclude present synthetic narcotic drugs or those which might be put on the market in the future.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in view of the ambiguous meaning of the word "new", States should be invited to make the medical and allied professions aware of the possible danger to public health of all recently discovered narcotic drugs. He put to the vote paragraph 1 amended in that sense.

Paragraph 1, as amended, was adopted by 8 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions.

Mr. SALDANHA (India) suggested the deletion of the word "synthetic" in paragraph 2.

The proposal was rejected by 7 votes to 1 with 4 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 was adopted by 7 votes to 6 with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN put the draft resolution as a whole to the vote.

The draft resolution (E/CN.7/L.109), as amended, was adopted by 8 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions.

Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) explained that he had abstained from voting because, in his opinion, the Turkish and Yugoslav draft resolution duplicated Council resolution 548 H (XVIII) and resolution E/CN.7/L.101 recently adopted by the Commission.

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) said that he did not wish the Commission to interpret his negative vote as a sign of fanatical devotion to synthetic narcotic drugs. He recalled, in that connexion, that long before the Commission had expressed an opinion on the dangers of ketobemidone, the United Kingdom had prohibited the import of that substance, for which the demand was relatively small and the need for which had not really made itself felt.

Although he had voted against the draft resolution he was ready, however, to co-operate in redrafting the English text.

Mr. RABASA (Mexico) said that as Mexico was neither a producer of natural drugs or a manufacturer of synthetic narcotic drugs, it could adopt a wholly disinterested position. He had, however, felt obliged to vote against

(Mr. Rabasa, Mexico)

the Turkish and Yugoslav draft resolution, as Mexican legislation which formally prohibited the manufacture of heroin, the production of cannabis and coca leaf cultivation, authorized the manufacture of synthetic products. Mexico had adopted that liberal attitude towards narcotic synthetic drugs so as not to impede the progress of scientific research. The same idea had led the Mexican delegation to vote against the draft resolution.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) said that his country's position was similar to that of Mexico on the question of synthetic narcotic drugs. He had, however, adopted a different attitude from that of the Mexican representative because he supported the extension of international control.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) said that he would have been satisfied with the adoption of his country's draft resolution (E/CN.7/L.101), had it not been for the fact that that resolution referred to the draft single convention and a certain time would elapse before the convention was adopted, ratified and came into force. In the meantime public opinion and the medical and allied profession should be made aware of the drawbacks of synthetic narcotic drugs. It was for that reason that he had been a sponsor of the draft resolution and had voted for it.

Mr. SALDNHA (India) explained that he had voted for the deletion of the word "synthetic" in paragraph 2 as its retention would have been contrary to the decision taken at the preceding meeting. He had, however, voted for the draft resolution as a whole for the same reasons as the Yugoslav representative.

Mr. LABIB (Egypt) said that he had voted against the draft resolution for the same reasons as the representative of Iran.

PROTOCOL FOR LIMITING AND REGULATING THE CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY PLANT, THE PRODUCTION OF, INTERNATIONAL AND WHOLESALE TRADE IN, AND USE OF OPIUM: Economic and Social Council resolution 548 C (XVIII), (E/CN.7/275 and Add.1, E/CN.7/285 and Corr. 2, E/CN.7/287 and Corr.1; E/CN.7/L.108)

The CHAIRMAN called on the Commission to examine the question of the 1953 Protocol concerning opium, and to begin with the draft Model Code for the application of the Protocol (E/CN.7/285) which the Council, on the Commission's recommendation, had asked him to prepare. He thanked the officials of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, especially Mr. Yates and Mr. Lande, and also the Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and of the Supervisory Body, for the assistance they had given him in carrying out his task.

He recalled that there had been no lack of criticism of the Protocol. The most important had been that the provisions adopted would not solve the problem of the over-production of opium. No acceptable solution had, however, been proposed by those who had raised such objections. Even those who had said that they were in favour of an international monopoly had laid down conditions which they knew could not be accepted by others. Others based their opinion on theoretical considerations which had nothing to do with actual conditions. Neither group gave sufficient importance to the crux of the matter, which was that an international agreement of that kind could only be a compromise.

The important thing, in the circumstances, was to see whether the Protocol was or was not an advance on what had gone before. There could be no possible doubt on that point. Wide powers had been given to the international Supervisory Body, including inquiry and inspection powers. Above all, the provisions of the Protocol formed a whole, thanks to which it should be possible to keep a much closer check on opium production than formerly. Once it was possible to determine the actual production of opium, it would not be long before there was a sharp drop in excess production, as had happened in the case of alkaloids. However, it would be too much to expect an international agreement to solve a problem unless all the States concerned played their part properly; States could not

(The Chairman)

co-operate, however, unless they could accept and apply the obligations laid on them. The efforts demanded of the producing countries under the Protocol were not beyond their strength. Any country which did not respect the Protocol would, by that very fact, become responsible for the excess production of opium and therefore for the illicit traffic. Some thought that the Protocol's principal merit would be to produce a psychological atmosphere which would induce the producers to supervise their production more closely and provide the Drug Supervisory Body with more detailed information on it.

Much ground had been covered between the first conference in Shanghai and the New York conference, but although progress had certainly been made in those forty-four years, it was limited. That was not surprising. The 1953 Protocol alone would not put a final end to the illicit traffic in illegal use of opium. There were still many social problems to be solved before that goal was reached, and they were beyond the scope of the international bodies dealing with narcotics. Their decisions must be realistic enough to be applicable and at the same time be a step forward. The Opium Protocol satisfied both requirements.

He added that he had tried to make the model code which the Council had asked him to prepare as concise as possible, on the understanding that matters of detail could be dealt with in the commentary, but it might be advisable to make the draft code even shorter.

Finally, he drew attention to the proposal submitted to the Commission by Afghanistan (E/CN.7/L.109) concerning the right of Afghanistan to produce opium for export. He called on the observer for Afghanistan who had asked to make a statement on that question.

Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) thanked the Commission for having, on the proposal of the United States representative, extended an invitation to his delegation, thus enabling it to present its country's views to the Commission. He thanked Mr. Anslinger most sincerely.

(Mr. Tabibi, Afghanistan)

He explained that he intended to cite certain facts to show that Afghanistan should be authorized to become a Party to the 1953 Protocol while still continuing to export opium. The Government of Afghanistan regretted that it had been unable, owing to an unfortunate combination of circumstances, to send a representative to the meetings of the Commission or to the 1953 Conference which had led to the drafting and signing of the Protocol. Afghanistan had a vital interest in being recognized as an opium exporting country under article 6 of the Protocol.

There were three main poppy-growing areas in Afghanistan, but the best opium, with a morphine content of 17 per cent, came from Badakshan. Badakshan was in the north-east of the country and was generally mountainous, with a sparse population. It did not receive the monsoon winds as did the provinces further south, and because of the nature of the soil, the hard climate and the lack of irrigation, vegetation was poor and the few crops were confined to the valleys.

The population had a hard struggle for existence. It had to use even the smallest patches of arable land. The opium sold to the State was almost the only product which provided a cash income with which they could purchase essential consumer goods. Although the value of opium exports was small compared with the total value of exports from Afghanistan, they provided a living for the 100,000 inhabitants of the province. That was why the Government had sanctioned the cultivation of the opium poppy in that area, which was particularly well adapted to the crop because of its geographical position and the quality of the opium produced.

If Afghanistan were not recognized as an opium exporting country, it would have serious consequences on the precarious economic balance of the province, and its social and political stability would be undermined. In 1944, the Government had been persuaded to ban poppy growing throughout the country, with the result that there had been a political crisis and it had had to rescind its decision within the year. The attitude of the inhabitants of the opium-producing areas would depend on the country's ability to secure continuous trade outlets for its opium production.

(Mr. Tabibi, Afghanistan)

The Government of Afghanistan regretted that it was not among the signatories of the Final Act of the United Nations Opium Conference. It was requesting that it should be recognized as an opium exporter under article 6 of the Protocol and that it should be permitted to accede to the Protocol. It recognized the importance and the value of the Protocol and considered that its accession to the Protocol would help to strengthen the control of the international opium trade. Moreover, Afghanistan's exports were so small compared with the world total that there was no danger of their upsetting the balance of the world opium market if they were continued.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) thought that Afghanistan's position should be sympathetically considered. It had proved its good intentions in 1944, when it had banned the cultivation of the opium poppy in answer to the United States Congress's resolution appealing to all countries to prohibit opium production except for medical purposes. He did not think that Afghanistan was open to criticism in connexion with control of illicit traffic. He believed it had always sent reports to the Permanent Central Opium Board. It would be interesting for the Commission to hear the Board's representative on that point. He suggested that the Afghan Government should communicate very detailed information on its production and exports to the Commission and the Permanent Central Opium Board.

It was a pity that Afghanistan had not been able to send a representative to the 1953 Conference, because, if it had been exporting opium in 1950, it would have fulfilled the conditions for being recognized as an exporting country. If Afghanistan became a party to the Protocol in order to be recognized as an exporting country, it would have to request revision of the Protocol after its entry into force, under article 22. The question of how the provisions of that article should be applied would then have to be considered.

He thought that Afghanistan should look into the possibility of finding substitute crops and might well request technical assistance from the United Nations in that field.

Miss VASILYEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had every respect for the sovereign right of Afghanistan to produce opium for export, and believed that that right should be respected by other States also. In that connexion she expressed her disagreement with the principle implicit in the 1953 Protocol and in document E/CN.7/L.108 that no State could produce opium without express permission. That principle was inconsistent with the sovereign rights of States.

Mr. WEI (China) noted with satisfaction that another country wished to become a party to the Protocol. China respected the interests of all States, but it was essential that all States should respect law and international agreements. As regards the revision of the Protocol, he agreed with the United States representative that it could only be done by applying article 22. It was obvious that a provision which had been included in the Protocol, rightly or wrongly, could be revised only through the revision procedure laid down in the Protocol. He drew attention also to article 18 concerning the procedure to be followed by States wishing to accede to the Protocol. The revision procedure, which could only be started after the Protocol came into force, might be very lengthy. Afghanistan should therefore consult the Permanent Central Opium Board and, in the meantime, consider the question of substitute crops.

Mr. RABASA (Mexico) emphasized the difference between the proposal in document E/CN.7/L.108, which referred to the single convention, and the proposal made orally by the observer for Afghanistan, which referred to the Protocol.

The Commission was competent to consider a proposal from the delegation of Afghanistan requesting it to decide, under the terms of the revised draft single convention, that Afghanistan was authorized to produce opium for export. That was simply an internal procedural matter and the Commission could, if it wished, re-open the debate on the single convention. However, as several members had observed, the Commission was not competent to consider a request from Afghanistan that it should be authorized to produce opium for export under article 6 of the Protocol.

The CHAIRMAN confirmed that the proposal in document E/CN.7/L.108 had been duly submitted to the Commission which had agreed to discuss it out of courtesy to the observer for Afghanistan who had been invited to express his views during the debate on the Protocol. However, the Commission could not take a decision. The debate on the single convention was closed and no purpose would be served by re-opening it since the Afghan proposal was not on the agenda and the members of the Commission had not received instructions from their Governments in the matter. The Protocol was not yet in force and acceptance of the Afghan request would entail its revision, a question which the Commission obviously could not consider at present. The best course would be for the Commission to hear such comments as its members wished to make and to postpone consideration of any procedural questions involved until its next session.

Mr. WEI (China) pointed out that under rule 72 of the rules of procedure the observer for Afghanistan was entitled to submit proposals.

Mr. SALDANHA (India) agreed with the Chairman that the Commission, while aware of Afghanistan's difficult position, could take no action at present. It might consider the possibility of recommending that the Afghan proposal should be transmitted to Governments for comment. It was difficult for members to express an opinion as they had not received instructions from their Governments.

Mr. LABIB (Egypt) considered that a recommendation to that effect might serve a useful purpose.

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) supported the procedure proposed by the United States representative. While he had not received instructions from his Government he was sure that it would give the Afghan proposal sympathetic consideration. The procedure prescribed in the Protocol might take time and the relevant provisions of the single convention might well have been discussed in the meantime. It would therefore be in Afghanistan's interest to communicate with the Permanent Central Opium Board in order to submit an application in due form together with the information and data required.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) agreed that the Afghan proposal was deserving of consideration. However, the question was not on the agenda and the proposal in document E/CN.7/L.108 had only just been distributed. As he had not received instructions from his Government he supported the procedure which the Chairman had suggested.

Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) and Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) said that they also favoured that procedure, for the same reasons.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the French representative, said that he fully appreciated the difficulty of Afghanistan's position. He did not see, however, how the production of opium could be successfully limited if the number of producing and exporting countries was increased. The French delegation accordingly considered it its duty to inform the observer for Afghanistan in all frankness that it would not support his proposal at the Commission's next session. The best method so far devised to limit production had been to limit the number of exporting countries. Every country was free to produce opium for its own requirements and Afghanistan could therefore continue to produce opium for domestic consumption without violating the Protocol.

With regard to the question of State sovereignty, he pointed out that the system for the suppression of the illicit traffic could not be improved without encroaching in some measure upon the sovereignty of States. Under the existing conventions, States had already agreed to accept the recommendations of a semi-judicial international organ. They were to be commended for accepting that limitation of their sovereignty since it was the only way to achieve practical results in any field and to improve the present situation.

It was unfortunate that Afghanistan had not sent a representative to the 1953 Conference and explained its position at that time. The question would then have been completely different. It had now become very complicated. Afghanistan was obviously in a difficult position. It could not suddenly prohibit cultivation and thus, by a single stroke of the pen, change the way of life of the peasants who cultivated the opium poppy. The Commission might

(The Chairman)

usefully include in its report a recommendation that the technical assistance authorities should consider the agricultural, social and health problems arising in Afghanistan. The French delegation would support any approach to the Technical Assistance Administration on those lines.

Mr. HOSSICK (Canada) was substantially in agreement with the views which the French representative had expressed. The problem was extremely complex and Governments should be invited to express their views at the Commission's next session.

Mr. TABIBI (Observer for Afghanistan) thanked the delegations which had expressed sympathy in connexion with Afghanistan's proposal concerning the right of Afghanistan to export opium.

With regard to the United States representative's suggestion concerning substitute crops, he said that his Government had already considered the matter. Experts had been sent to undertake field surveys in the area and had reported that it would be very difficult to find substitute crops. It was for that reason that his Government had been obliged to place its case before the United Nations. He had accordingly submitted his proposal to the Commission and had consulted the signatories of the Protocol to elicit their support. Afghanistan had produced opium and had disposed of it on the world market for many years. Opium was a product of capital importance to countries seeking to obtain foreign exchange.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the Commission could not consider the substance of the question at its current session. If the debate were to continue the views of the representatives of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Board would have to be sought. The observer for Afghanistan would probably not be in a position to provide all the information requested.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia), supported by Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) and Mr. LABIB (Egypt), proposed that the Commission should decide to include the question in its agenda for the next session. Governments would thus have time to consider it.

The proposal was adopted by 12 votes to none, with one abstention.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.