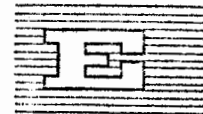


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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Twenty-eighth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 865TH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 15 February 1979, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. RAOOF ALI

(Pakistan)

CONTENTS

Implementation of the international treaties on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including annual reports of governments (agenda item 5) (continued)

Reports of international organs, organizations and bodies on their activities in the field of drug control (agenda item 6)

(a) United Nations (report submitted by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, including information on its publications)

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The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES ON THE CONTROL OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS (agenda item 5) (E/CN.7/624 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

Forms for import and export authorizations and for export declaration
(paragraphs 51-54)

1. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said that the three specimen forms distributed to members of the Commission had been established in the light of the decisions taken by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session and should encourage governments to produce their own forms.

2. Mr. SCHRODER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation approved in principle, of the specimen forms, but thought they should not differ from the ones used for the Single Convention.

3. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said he was surprised at the observation made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, as not all the forms established for the 1971 Convention had to be used by the Parties to the 1961 Convention, and there would sometimes be differences in the form. Some years previously, the Commission had established a special form for international trade in connexion with the Single Convention of 1961; if the form proposed for the 1971 Convention was to be more or less modelled on the previous one, it would be necessary to draft a new one, as the import authorization form established for the 1971 Convention referred to that Convention only, and could not be used for the 1961 Convention, unless it was found that all the requirements in it also applied to the latter Convention.

Model forms for certain notifications and notices (paragraphs 55-58)

4. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission), referring to the document containing model forms I-IX, which had been distributed to members of the Commission, said that the secretariat was gratified that governments had deemed those models useful and had already followed them, although they had received them but recently. Nevertheless, they were only models, and if governments decided to use them as such, they would have to reproduce them in a definitive form.

Import prohibitions (paragraphs 59-65)

5. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission), referring to the remark made at the morning meeting by the representative of Yugoslavia, who had drawn attention to article 13 of the Convention, said that, so far, Pakistan, Madagascar and South Africa had notified the secretariat, on the relevant form, of the substances whose import they prohibited. It was worth drawing attention - as the Commission already had the previous year - to the usefulness of that provision and that form, particularly for governments, some of which had already complained that certain undesirable substances were being imported into their countries. That form should enable the governments concerned to protect themselves against such imports, for Parties to the Convention which were notified of an import prohibition in respect of a particular country would be required to take all the necessary steps to prohibit the export of the specified substances to that country. However, such notification did not prevent a government from importing those substances by special authorization.

6. Mr. TIGNER (France), thanking the secretariat for the clarification in paragraph 65, said that his country would submit the appropriate notifications in application of the Convention. The separate notification required by article 13 of the Convention was particularly important.

7. Mr. FRANCFORT (France), referring to the last sentence of paragraph 65, said that, under article 3 of the 1971 Convention, preparations were subject, in principle, to the same control measures as the substances they contained. He asked whether, when a country prohibited the import of a substance, it could be assumed to have also prohibited the import of the corresponding preparations, even if it had not said so in its notification.

8. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) confirmed that, in principle, it was reasonable to assume that an import prohibition on a particular substance likewise applied to its corresponding preparations; however, as a precautionary measure, it was advisable to state that in the notification, as a country might make a distinction between a substance and a preparation containing a small quantity of that substance.

9. Dr. BABAIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked, in connexion with paragraph 63, whether it would not be advisable to provide that Parties must acknowledge receipt of notifications, since they were supposed to take steps to prevent the export of the substances specified in those notifications. The Convention did not provide for any such obligation.

10. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) confirmed that the Convention did not contain any provision to that effect. The question had been raised at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and no one had objected. The sending of an acknowledgement of receipt had been recommended in the Commentary to the 1971 Convention; it was not a legal obligation imposed on the Parties, but such an action would nevertheless be of considerable practical value, in view of paragraph 2 of article 13 of the 1971 Convention.

Guidelines for the exemption of preparations from certain control measures
(paragraphs 66-77)

11. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) observed, on the subject of paragraph 69, that it would perhaps be appropriate for the Commission to adopt a decision inviting governments to give notification of preparations which were exempt from certain control measures. In fact, such notification was an obligation of the Parties under the Convention. So far, however, the secretariat had not received any notifications, although some States had granted exemptions. Notifications were useful for practical, as well as statistical purposes, in view of the fact that, under the terms of paragraph 4 of article 3 of the Convention, exemptions could be called in question by the World Health Organization and by the Commission.

12. The secretariat thought that the guidelines prepared by the WHO Working Group (E/CN.7/624, annex II) might be adopted as a basis and it fully approved of circulating them without further detailed consideration. They were not mandatory, and after a trial period of three or four years it would always be possible to assess their usefulness and amend them, where appropriate.

13. With the agreement of WHO, the secretariat proposed to add, at the end of the WHO guidelines (annex II, p.3, para.13 (b)), the foot-note appearing at the end of paragraph 77 of document E/CN.7/624. It was important to draw attention to paragraphs 3 (d) and (e) of article 12 of the 1971 Convention, for the Parties might overlook the fact that the exemption granted for certain preparations could lead to difficulties in international trade. The Parties were not required by the Convention to issue import or export authorizations for exempted preparations, and such preparations might be confiscated on entering the importing or transit country if the latter required authorizations.

14. Mr. HUYGHE (Belgium) said that, in order to assess the effect of exemptions and try out the WHO guidelines, he had studied all the special pharmaceutical products of his country which might be subject to the provisions of the 1971 Convention. That study had shown that, out of 9,000 preparations registered in Belgium, including 2,000 not on the market, there were altogether 292 preparations, in 386 pharmaceutical forms, corresponding to substances in Schedules II, III and IV which were marketed, and 61 preparations, in 69 pharmaceutical forms, which were not on the market, but which might also be marketed in the future. Taking into account also the 63 preparations, in 87 pharmaceutical forms, which were controlled in Belgium, but which were not covered by the Convention, the number of substances subject to the provisions of the 1971 Convention was found to be much higher than the number of narcotic drugs covered by the 1961 Convention. That result provided a yardstick for assessing the administrative implications of the 1971 Convention, especially as the preparations in question were often high-consumption items.

15. With regard to the criteria for non-exemption proposed by WHO, it would be necessary to fix a maximum dosage unit for preparations containing several psychotropic substances, beyond which no exemption would be allowed, as some preparations contained two or more of the substances covered by the Convention, but in doses which did not present any danger. Similarly, for preparations containing a psychotropic substance in association with a narcotic, it should be stated that the narcotics concerned were not those in Schedules II and III of the Single Convention, and establish, both for the psychotropic substance and for the narcotic, maximum dosage limits for exemption.

16. To make the Convention applicable, he proposed, first, that WHO should be asked to determine which were the most dangerous substances in Schedules III and IV, which should then be transferred, where appropriate, to Schedule II, and secondly, that the other substances in Schedules III and IV, should be made subject to the regulations concerning pure substances; he also proposed the establishment, as recommended by WHO, of rules of exemption similar to those for narcotics in Schedule III of the 1961 Convention and maximum quantities per dosage unit for exemptions for preparations in Schedules III and IV in the same way as for substances in Schedule III of the Single Convention.

17. Mr. SCHRÖDER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, as that question was closely linked with re-scheduling, he would like to revert to the discussion of paragraphs 47 and 48, which had been concluded a little hastily at the morning meeting. His country considered that it was not necessary to re-schedule either secobarbital or meprobamate, which were far less dangerous than many other substances. It was more important to discuss the possibility of extending control measures.

18. Mr. CAPASSO (Italy), referring to paragraph 71, drew the Commission's attention to the provisions of article 2, paragraph 7 (c) (ii), of the 1971 Convention concerning medical prescriptions. He wondered how the obligation to supply a medical prescription could be fulfilled in the case of "buffer preparations", which were not medicines prescribed by physicians, but were used rather for scientific purposes in laboratories. He asked whether the exemption provided for in paragraph 3 of article 3 of the Convention applied to those preparations.

19. Mr. BÖLCS (Hungary) said he endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Belgium on the subject of the second criterion for non-exemption which seemed too rigorous; he also agreed that WHO might be asked to help to fix maximum doses.
20. He pointed out that paragraph 74, concerning Hungary's reply to the secretariat's note verbale, was incomplete; it should also state that certain other preparations were available without a medical prescription. Those preparations contained minimum quantities of substances in Schedules III and IV, mixed with other substances.
21. Mr. TIGNER (France) thought that as much concrete information as possible should be obtained before considering fixing by consensus uniform maximum quantities, so as to avoid substantial differences between States, which would complicate the application of the Convention and might lead to abuses. With regard to the reagents referred to by Australia and France, it would be necessary to add immunological reagents, whose lowest concentrations merited exemption.
22. Subject to a more thorough study at a later date, his delegation shared, on the whole, the Belgian views.
23. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission), summing up, said that paragraph 74 would be amended in the light of the observation made by the Hungarian representative. With regard to the criteria for non-exemption, the observations made by Belgium and Hungary, and partly supported by France, made it impossible to adopt the general guidelines recommended by WHO. In order to develop those guidelines, it would be necessary to fix maximum quantities to be observed for preparations containing several psychotropic substances and for preparations containing a psychotropic substance in association with a narcotic, and to take account of the proposal to reclassify in Schedule II certain substances in Schedules III and IV, which would require a considerable amount of work. The secretariat therefore suggested that the matter should be referred to WHO and the Division of Narcotic Drugs for further consideration. Taking into account the observations made, the secretariat would submit more detailed guidelines, if possible at the next session. It should be remembered that the guidelines were being prepared in response to a wish expressed by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session, and not in fulfilment of an obligation arising from the 1971 Convention. For that Convention, the Vienna Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 1971 had agreed that the Parties should decide on exemptions, unlike the 1961 Convention, for the comparable schedule (Schedule III) of which exemptions were definitively fixed by the Commission.
24. Having noted the observations made and the criteria formulated on that question, which called for deeper study, the secretariat thought that the Commission might request that it should be reconsidered by WHO, in co-operation with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which would communicate the results to the Commission as soon as possible.

Carrying by international travellers of small quantities of preparations for personal use (paragraphs 78 and 79)

25. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said that the secretariat had not received sufficient information on that subject to present a well-based recommendation to the Commission. The secretariat would be willing to carry out the necessary research, but it was impossible to consider doing so, owing to lack of funds and staff. In that connexion, the secretariat welcomed the proposal made by the United Kingdom at the morning meeting, for the provisions which that Government had in mind could apply not only to persons carrying small quantities of preparations for personal use, but also, for example, to those accompanying sick persons.

26. The Commission could take note of the situation and ask the secretariat to request governments which had not already done so to furnish information about national practice in that field, since without such information the secretariat might submit proposals which were contrary to practice. Perhaps the Commission would agree to defer the question to another session in the near future.

27. Mr. McKIM (Canada) observed that the work to be done with a view to drawing up uniform rules concerned only the psychotropic substances referred to in the 1971 Convention, but that at the preceding meeting the United Kingdom representative had made a proposal to extend the provisions mentioned in paragraphs 78 and 79 to narcotic drugs falling under the 1961 Single Convention. The Commission should take a positive decision, inasmuch as the 1961 Convention did not authorize the carrying of small quantities of drugs except for purposes of scientific research.

28. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said there was nothing to prevent the Commission from adopting uniform rules concerning the carrying by international travellers of small quantities of preparations containing either psychotropic substances or narcotic drugs or both, and that the Commission could make a recommendation asking the secretariat to study the matter.

29. The CHAIRMAN, noting that there was no objection to that proposal, said that the secretariat would be asked to draft a recommendation to that effect.

Recommendations regarding safeguards for first-aid kits (paragraphs 80 to 82)

30. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) observed that the preceding decision clearly implied that the recommendations regarding safeguards applied both to the substances referred to in the Single Convention and to those included in the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. He again emphasized that it was important for the secretariat to obtain more information from governments if it was to draw up appropriate recommendations.

Record-keeping requirements by governments for substances in Schedule III and for preparations containing those substances (paragraphs 83 to 86)

31. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said the secretariat thought it had accomplished its task by transmitting the information which it had received, pursuant to the request made by the United Kingdom at the preceding session. However, the small number of replies received clearly showed the difficulties the secretariat was having in collecting complete information about any particular point.

Warnings on packages and advertising (paragraphs 87 and 88)

32. The CHAIRMAN noted that there were no comments on those paragraphs.

Including observations (paragraphs 89 and 90)

33. Mr. HOLL (Secretary of the Commission) recalled that at its fifth special session, the Commission had unreservedly supported the request that the necessary funds be allocated to international drug control, so that the secretariat could carry out the additional studies required for the implementation of the 1971 Convention. The discussions at the preceding meeting had also shown that the tasks involved in the implementation of the 1971 Convention were becoming increasingly heavy and that the secretariat did not have the necessary funds or material and human resources to give it full effect. The secretariat would therefore be grateful if the Commission would adopt any decision or recommendation that could enable it to fulfil the important responsibilities with which it was entrusted.

34. Dr. KHAN (World Health Organization) stressed the scope of the problems raised by the implementation of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances in the social and public health fields and the difficulties, from the medical point of view, of recognizing where drug abuse began, in view of the widespread use of certain substances, such as tranquillizers, in modern medicine. In order to throw some light on those problems, a group in Europe was collaborating with WHO in carrying out studies on the use of drugs which required the co-operation of scientists at the regional and national levels. WHO had already identified some of the social and health problems created by drug abuse, particularly with regard to morbidity, mortality, traffic accidents, behaviour, criminality and social pressure. It was with that in mind that Executive Board resolution EE/63/R.29 asked all members to collaborate with WHO in an effort to identify the problems which arose in each country. In addition, WHO was going to hold a meeting of a committee of experts in September 1980 to consider the problems connected with the use of psychotropic substances, and especially their long-term effects. A meeting had been held in Monaco in November 1978 to study the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving. That meeting, which had been organized by WHO under its accident prevention programme, had stressed the need to draw up guidelines for research on those substances, with a view to evaluating their effect on drivers. The Director General of WHO had communicated the resolutions adopted at that meeting to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, so that they could be brought to the attention of States Members.

35. He also wished to draw attention to the useful results achieved by the travelling seminar on the safe use of psychotropic and narcotic substances which had been held at Tashkent (USSR) in October 1978, for the purpose of strengthening international co-operation for the prevention of drug abuse and reducing the demand for drugs. That meeting, in which eighteen countries, most of them developing countries, had participated, as well as representatives of the specialized agencies, had concluded that drug record-keeping should be based on a very detailed evaluation, taking particular account of the needs of the developing countries, and that it was necessary to continue to supervise them after they had been placed on sale in those countries. Limitations should be prescribed in the light of the biological characteristics of the populations in order to prevent the abuse of those substances and their diversion to illicit purposes. Among the obligations imposed by the 1971 Convention, that meeting had brought out the importance of adequate medical and administrative control and consequently the need to have skilled personnel in those fields at all levels.

36. At the local level, WHO intended to hold a meeting in the eastern Mediterranean region in 1980 to consider the problems of the countries of that region.

37. In conclusion, he emphasized the need for a concerted effort by all countries to implement the 1971 Convention as fully as possible, and assured the Commission that WHO was prepared to co-operate with the international community for that purpose.

38. Dr. BABALAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he recognized that the increase in the tasks imposed on the Commission's secretariat and the Division of Narcotic Drugs called for additional resources, but thought that those resources should be kept within the limits of the United Nations budget by making a more efficient distribution of the considerable means available to the Organization.

39. With regard to the safe use of psychotropic substances and narcotic drugs, in the Soviet Union a professional driver, for example, who needed to use such substances for medical treatment had to take sick leave and obtain a certificate from his doctor stating that he was not fit for work; he then received sick pay. It was a very important problem, and he welcomed the timely initiative taken by WHO in holding its seminar at Tashkent in the preceding year. The extremely useful exchange of experience which had taken place between the specialists of all countries, especially those of the developing countries, had made it possible to lay the foundation for fruitful co-operation in the campaign against drug abuse and the implementation of the 1971 Convention. A welcome feature had been the participation of particularly competent experts of the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions. Such useful international meetings should be continued and WHO should consider holding more seminars of the same kind in other regions.

40. Speaking of cases where patients had to use preparations when travelling, he emphasized that they should possess an authorization prepared on a suitable form and issued by some national agency which was competent to export and import narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that connexion, it might be helpful to try to standardize the forms by adopting the models proposed by the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

41. Mr. SCHRÖDER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that document E/CN.7/624 showed the extent of the work done by the secretariat since the Convention on Psychotropic Substances had entered into force, as well as the importance of the task which it had accomplished by gathering information from governments and analysing their replies. The secretariat had taken a welcome step in preparing for the first time an annotated agenda (document E/CN.7/622/Add.1), which enabled the members of the Commission to make a quick evaluation of the work to be done at the present session.

42. He congratulated the secretariat on its work and hoped that some way would be found of providing it with the necessary financial means and staff under the United Nations budget.

43. The CHAIRMAN said he assumed that the Commission had taken note of document E/CN.7/624 and invited it to consider document E/CN.7/624/Add.1 concerning the annual reports of governments.

44. Mr. BAILEY (Assistant Secretary of the Commission) observed that document E/CN.7/624/Add.1 dealt only with the reports received by 15 October 1977. Since that date, 17 other countries had submitted reports, and an addendum would be issued in the near future to bring the situation up to date.

45. As the secretariat had already indicated, some difficulties had been met with, owing to the fact that certain governments had not fulfilled their obligations under the Convention and had not submitted a report. Among the members of the Commission, Indonesia had not submitted a report, nor had seven other countries which had been invited to send observers to the Commission: Ghana, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay. The secretariat hoped that in future all States would submit regular reports.

46. He drew the attention of the members of the Commission to the two annexes to the Summary of Annual Reports, namely the documents of the E/NF series concerning the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and of the E/NA series concerning national authorities empowered to issue certificates and authorizations for the import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. With regard to the latter series (E/NA...), copies of the statements made by the delegations of the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America concerning the Federal Opium Section in Berlin had been received by the secretariat, which would comment on that subject when the consideration of document E/CN.7/624/Add.1 had been completed.

47. Lastly, he drew the Commission's attention to the minor change proposed, in paragraph 4, to the presentation of the questionnaire and which consisted in informing governments that their competent national authorities should answer all the questions on an annual basis.

48. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Commission should consider document E/CN.7/624/Add.1 paragraph by paragraph, as had been done with the preceding document.

That suggestion was adopted.

Introduction (paragraphs 1 to 11)

49. Mr. RANDRIANAME (Madagascar), observing that 70 per cent of African countries and territories had failed to submit reports in 1976 and 1977, considered that the reasons for that failure should be discovered so that measures for remedying the situation could be recommended. He recalled that in its resolution 2065 (LXII), the Economic and Social Council had recognized that African countries, particularly those south of the Sahara, lacked the resources to enable them to fulfil their obligations under treaties on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

50. Dr. BABAIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that most of the questions in the new form prepared by the secretariat called for a simple "no" or "nil" whereas the previous questionnaire had required a detailed answer and permitted constructive analysis of the situation and its trend.

51. Referring to the secretariat's comments on the Federal Opium Section of the Federal Health Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, he said that he reserved the right to revert to that subject since that body, which was located in West Berlin, could not be considered as forming part of the Federal Republic of Germany.

52. Mr. BAILEY (Assistant Secretary of the Commission) said, with respect to the USSR representative's first comment, that the new form had been adopted by the Commission after careful study and that the information given by governments was used, not only for the Summary of Annual Reports and for document E/CN.7/624 and Add 1, but also for drafting other documents by other services dealing with drug abuse and the illicit traffic. Moreover, governments were invited to add, as an annex to the questionnaire, any more detailed information they considered it appropriate to communicate, as indeed many countries did. However, it had been possible, on the basis of the concise information requested in the new questionnaire, to prepare a summary of reports of governments in the form of tables.

CHAPTERS I to VI (paragraphs 12 to 30)

53. The CHAIRMAN, noting that members of the Commission had no comments to make on the rest of the document, said he assumed that the Commission had taken note of document E/CN.7/624/Add.1 and approved the proposal made in paragraph 4.

54. Mr. BAILEY (Assistant Secretary of the Commission) pointed out, with respect to the Federal Opium Section of the Federal Health Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, that the question raised by the representative of the USSR had already arisen at the Commission's fifth special session and was referred to in paragraphs 211, 212 and 213 of the report on that session. On the suggestion of the Office of Legal Affairs at Headquarters, the secretariat had introduced, in annex 1 (E/NA.1977) to the Summary of Annual Reports for 1977 a new introductory note setting forth the secretariat's official position on the question.

55. Dr. BABAIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, having heard the explanations of the secretariat, his delegation maintained its statements and requested the secretariat to bear them in mind.

56. The CHAIRMAN said he assumed that the Commission had taken note of the explanations given by the secretariat.

REPORTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANS, ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DRUG CONTROL (agenda item 6):

(a) UNITED NATIONS (REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE DIVISION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON ITS PUBLICATIONS) (E/CN.7/631 and Add.1)

57. In the absence of the Director of the Division, Mr. KANDEMIR (Deputy Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs) introduced the Division's report for the period March to November 1978 (E/CN.7/631 and Add.1). The two documents related mainly to questions and areas of activity not covered in separate documents submitted to the Commission under other items of the agenda. That was the case, in particular, with various resolutions, decisions and measures adopted by the

Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, which were referred to in Chapters I and II of the main document and the addendum thereto. Chapter III described some of the activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Commission and the Division of Narcotic Drugs during the period under consideration and mentioned documents and information of interest to international drug control which had been communicated to the Division and which the Division wished to bring to the attention of the Commission. It also contained information on the Division's activities in the matter of information and publications.

58. Mr. NOLL (Secretary of the Commission) said that, as was stated in the Division's report (E/CN.7/631, paras. 4 and 5), the Economic and Social Council had decided to defer until the appropriate session in 1979, when it took up the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1980 and 1981, consideration of the question of the holding of a special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 1980. The Commission must therefore decide whether it wished to maintain its request concerning the holding of that special session. In any case, it might be preferable to deal with that question under agenda item 11, "Programme of work and priorities".

59. Referring to measures taken by the General Assembly with a view to a restructuring of the Organization's Secretariat, he drew the attention of members to the General Assembly's resolution on restructuring and said that the Commission must expect that the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly would shortly request it to review its mandate. He invited the Commission to examine in particular the paragraphs of the report relating to accommodation at the Donaupark Centre at Vienna (E/CN.7/631/Add.1, paras. 13 to 24) and those relating to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (*ibid.*, paras 25 to 44). He said that the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse Control, whose report on its sixth session (Geneva, 11-13 September 1978) was reproduced in annex I to the Division's report, had ceased to exist, its elimination being the result, precisely, of measures envisaged as part of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.

60. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the Division's report (E/CN.7/631), chapter by chapter.

Chapter I - Economic and Social Council

Paragraphs 1 to 11

61. Mr. CAVANAUGH (United States of America) said that, if it was to be in a position to monitor its programme of international drug control strategy and policies, the Commission must meet in 1980. His delegation would therefore submit a draft resolution suggesting that the Economic and Social Council should convene a special session in 1980.

Chapter II - General Assembly

Paragraphs 12 and 13

Chapter III - Division of Narcotic Drugs

Paragraphs 14 to 38

62. Dr. TONGUE (Observer, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that, during the period under consideration, the Division on Narcotic Drugs had been represented at two important meetings of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions: the meeting held at Rome in September 1978 and the thirty-second International Congress, at which, in the absence of the representative of the Division, the communication he had intended to present had been read out.

63. Dr. BABAIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) welcomed the resolution that ICPO/Interpol had adopted at its forty-seventh session at Panama City in October 1978 emphasizing the dangers inherent in the illicit production, traffic and abuse of cannabis and its derivatives.

64. Mr. CAVANAUGH (United States of America) welcomed some of the views expressed in the report on the sixth session of the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse Control (Geneva, 11-13 September 1978) which was reproduced in annex I to the Division's report. He welcomed, in particular, the principle that receiving governments should be encouraged by providing them, quickly and at the proper time, with assistance, even in relatively small amounts (E/CN.7/631, annex I, para. 9), but that aid should not be given unless it was clear that a determined effort had been made by the agency concerned to find required support from within existing regular budgets (*ibid.*, para. 10). His delegation also agreed with the Committee that international action would be much more effective if some of the larger international financial institutions had a better understanding of the role of drug control in the context of rural development. It would be useful to invite representatives of multilateral development banks to attend future sessions of the Commission. Such co-operation would deepen mutual understanding between agencies responsible for drug control and development assistance agencies. It would also contribute to implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/124 by integrating development assistance into international drug abuse control strategy and policies. His delegation would therefore submit a draft decision requesting the Commission to invite multilateral development institutions to send representatives to its future sessions.

65. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to examine the addendum to the report of the Division on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/631/Add.1) chapter by chapter.

66. Mr. ANT (Turkey), referring to the assignment of growth rates to programmes carried out within the framework of the United Nations, said that it was regrettable that representatives of member States of the Commission to the General Assembly had been unable to convince the Member States of the Organization that United Nations action in the field of drugs and the efforts made by the secretariat in that connexion merited the assignment of a higher growth rate.

67. Mr. CAVANAUGH (United States of America) expressed his satisfaction with the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that international drug control should have an "average" real growth rate rather than a "below average" rate. That was a step in the right direction.

68. Dr. BABAIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he, too, was satisfied with the increased importance attached to drug abuse control and considered that with rational use of available resources the Commission should be able to discharge the tasks assigned to it.

69. Mr. HUYGHE (Belgium) and Dr. BABAIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated the Director of the Division and his staff on their very practical and precise report.

70. The CHAIRMAN said he assumed that the Commission had taken note of the report of the Division in documents E/CN.7/651 and Add.1.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.