

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Fourth session

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

The following additions should be made:

- A. In section 5(a), Summary of Annual Reports for the year 1947, after the end of the first paragraph, insert the following:

"Having regard to certain features of some reports, the representative of Canada considered that the Secretary-General should be in a position to request Governments to furnish explanations or additional information regarding statements contained in annual or other reports which they forwarded to him in application of their obligations under the conventions or in connection with decisions taken by the Commission, and he accordingly introduced a recommendation to that effect. The Commission discussed the Canadian proposal and after making two amendments decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following resolution:

'REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENTS FOR INFORMATION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

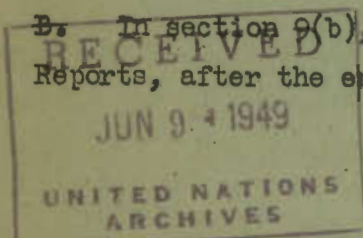
The Economic and Social Council,

Being informed that it is essential for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in the exercise of its supervision over the application by Governments of the provisions of the international instruments on narcotic drugs, including those synthetically produced, to be furnished with complete and accurate information regarding such application,

Requests the Secretary-General to ask Governments to furnish such explanations or additional information regarding statements contained in annual reports, seizure reports, texts of laws and regulations or in other reports or documents forwarded by them to the Secretary-General, within his functions under the Charter."

- B. In section 9(b), paragraph on Drug addiction, in the Form of Annual Reports, after the end of the present text insert the following:

/"The Sub-Committee



"The Sub-Committee held a meeting on 26 May 1949, under the chairmanship of the representative of China, and after having considered the text of Chapter II, paragraph 2, given in E/CN.7/173, and an alternative draft proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom, decided to submit a new text to the Commission. Commenting on this text, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee said that it had been drafted with two considerations in mind; to obtain such information as would be necessary and useful for the work of the Commission and to phrase the inquiries in the simplest possible language. The Commission decided to accept its Sub-Committee's text of Chapter II, paragraph 2 (Annex F), for inclusion in the Form of Annual Reports."

C. In section 13, Methods of determining the origin of opium, after the end of the present text insert the following:

"In view of the fact that further international research on this problem was very desirable, the representative of India considered that the offer made by the representative of the United States should be accepted, and introduced a proposal to this effect. The representative of the United States drew the Commission's attention to a declaration of the Government regarding the facilities it was prepared to offer to assist such research which declaration, it was agreed, should be incorporated in the preamble of the resolution proposed by the representative of India. After making the necessary drafting changes to include a proposal by the representative of Canada, the Commission accordingly decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following resolution:

'METHODS OF DETERMINING THE ORIGIN OF OPIUM BY CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL MEANS

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken into account the replies of Governments to inquiries made by the Secretary-General pursuant to its resolution 159(VII), II, C on the methods of determining the origin of opium,

Having noted the fact that the Secretary-General does not at present have the material means necessary for the safe-keeping of dangerous substances nor laboratory facilities for carrying out chemical research activities,

Considering that the Government of the United States of America, supplementing its proposals contained in a communication to the Secretary-General of 19 November 1948 (E/CN.7/159, page 4),

/has declared

has declared its willingness informally and without undertaking any legal obligation, to place United States laboratory facilities at the disposal of the United Nations in a way to be arranged in detail with the Secretary-General for the purpose of:

- (a) enabling officials of the Secretariat to carry out research on the methods of determining the origin of opium by chemical and physical means,
- (b) co-ordinating the research activities undertaken by other Governments in this field,
- (c) maintaining in the custody of the Government of the United States a centre for the distribution and exchange of samples of opium to those scientists and scientific institutions that may be designated by Governments which participate in the joint research project, in accordance with the Council's resolution referred to above,

Requests the Secretary-General to further, within the means available, research on the methods of determining the origin of opium; and

Recommends the Secretary-General to accept, if he finds this desirable, the laboratory facilities which the Government of the United States has offered to place at his disposal for this purpose."

D. After the end of section 17, Studies on Indian hemp, insert a new section as follows:

"18. Commission of Inquiry into the effects of chewing the coca leaf."

The Chairman drew the Commission's attention to E/CN.7/164/Add.1 regarding the request of the Government of Bolivia for the Commission of Inquiry to extend its investigations to that country, and proposed that an invitation should be extended to the Government of Bolivia to be represented by an observer during the Commission's discussion of the dispatch of the Commission of Inquiry to South America. This proposal was strongly endorsed by the representatives of Mexico and Peru and unanimously adopted by the Commission.

The Chairman pointed out that the position as regards the Commission of Inquiry had changed somewhat since the matter was discussed by the Commission during its session and since the adoption by the Council of its resolution 159(VII)IV; there had been not only the Bolivian request but also an important statement made by the representative of Peru to the Council during its eighth session (E/CN.7/164, Annex 2), on the complex

/nature

nature of the problem, with particular reference to the intimate relationship between the habit of chewing the coca leaf and a lack of adequate nourishment.

The representative of Canada emphasized the need for appointing the Commission of Inquiry now, and had himself always considered that the Commission would need three months for its work, and the present budgetary provisions were accordingly inadequate. If it should prove impossible at the present time to obtain the necessary credits to cover a three months' working period for the Commission, he was, however, of the opinion that it would be preferable to postpone the setting up of the Commission until a later date. Since the Bolivian request had altered the situation, the Commission should now place before the Council a recommendation urging the appropriation of adequate funds to enable the Commission of Inquiry to carry out its task satisfactorily.

The representative of Bolivia stressed that the problem of chewing the coca leaf was fundamental to his country and had social, physical and juridical aspects as well as an influence on labour conditions.

Bolivia offered every facility to the Commission of Inquiry for its work and all assistance it might need. The problem which the Commission would have to tackle was twofold; it had a physiological aspect and it was also connected with the question of the limitation of the production of the coca leaf. In his opinion the second problem could only be solved after the answer have been found to the first, and the Commission should make an objective approach to the question of whether the chewing of coca leaves was harmful to inhabitants of a specific region. For this reason, and because it would be an organ of the United Nations and its findings would deeply affect for good or for ill the prestige of the United Nations in Bolivia, the study to be made by the Commission of Inquiry must not be in any way hasty. He entirely agreed with the representative of Canada that the thirty days provided for by the present budgetary provisions would be quite inadequate. He estimated that the Commission would have to spend more than that time in travel alone.

The Government had already studied the problem of chewing the coca leaf and a committee of experts on the matter would be formed in Bolivia to give all information and every other possible assistance to the members of the Commission of Inquiry. In this connection he informed the Commission that a mobile railway laboratory would be made available for such research work as the Commission might wish to undertake.

/The representative

The representative of Peru associated himself with the contentions of the representatives of Canada and Bolivia that a period of thirty days was completely inadequate for the work of the Commission of Inquiry. In addition, he informed the Commission that the Government of Peru considered that the conclusions drawn from the work of the Commission of Inquiry should be implemented slowly and cautiously since they would have a profound effect in countries where the habit of chewing the coca leaf was prevalent. Among mountain peoples who were so dependent upon coca leaves any changes to be made must be brought about gradually to prevent an adverse effect on farming and mining activities in Peru. The Government would do everything in its power to insure that the Commission of Inquiry's work was successful.

The representative of Mexico associated himself with the previous statements and considered that the Commission itself should, after arrival in that area, decide on the amount of time it would need to complete its task satisfactorily.

The representative of the United Kingdom preferred that the Commission of Inquiry should have a limited objective for the time being and warned that any attempt to increase the scope of its activities might lead to an indefinite postponement. The original idea behind the proposal to set up this Commission had been the need for an inquiry into the physiological effects of chewing the coca leaf, and an enlargement of the scope of the inquiry to include a study of the economic effects of the suppression of the habit in the countries concerned had subsequently been suggested. The latter inquiry should, however, be of secondary interest to the Commission. The representative of India drew attention to the fact that the proposal for a Commission of Inquiry had been under discussion for two years and it would not speak very well for the administrative methods of the United Nations if any further postponement should now take place. He strongly supported the proposal of the representative of Peru that the Commission of Inquiry should not have less than three months in the field.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that he could not agree that an inquiry into the physiological aspects of the problem was necessary. As a pharmacologist he knew that the chewing of the coca leaf was a harmful habit and in his opinion the Commission of Inquiry should mainly confine its study to the means to be taken to limit the production of the coca leaf.

The representative of China said that if the Commission of Inquiry could be dispatched without revision of its terms of reference, it could

/leave

leave for Peru during the present year and make the fullest possible use of the data on the subject which the Peruvian authorities had assembled. It was possible that a report based even on a short study such as that would enable the necessary decisions to resolve the problem of chewing the coca leaf in South America to be taken, but if that should prove impossible, the Commission's report should clearly indicate the need for further study.

The representative of Yugoslavia observed that opinion was divided on whether the chewing of the coca leaf was or was not a harmful habit. It was therefore essential for the Commission of Inquiry to issue an authoritative report based on an authentic study of the problem. The history of the suppression of opium smoking, which had required years before a consensus of public opinion had condemned it, must not be allowed to repeat itself. The Council should therefore be requested to allow the Commission to stay in the field as long as might prove necessary for the completion of its task. He thought the proposal of the representative of China would certainly be more expensive for the United Nations when it proved to be necessary to send two missions to South America instead of one. During the discussion of a draft recommendation to the Council submitted by the Secretariat, the Commission decided to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the fact the Commission considered that a period of one month would be entirely insufficient to enable the Commission of Inquiry to complete its work in South America and to urge strongly that this period should be increased to at least three months.

The Commission then decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following resolution:

"COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE COCA LEAF

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having taken note that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs elected during its fourth session, in implementation of Council resolution 202(VIII), the following experts to membership of the Commission of Inquiry into the effects of chewing the coca leaf:

Professor D. Granier-Doyeux

Mr. H. B. Fonda

Professor F. Verzar

Mr. Razet

"Having noted the request of the Government of Bolivia that the Commission of Inquiry should extend its investigations to that country,

"Endorses the opinion of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that the Commission of Inquiry should be given adequate time to perform its tasks satisfactorily,

/"Expresses

"Expresses its satisfaction at the declarations made by the representatives of Bolivia and Peru to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the willingness of these two Governments to grant to the Commission of Inquiry all assistance and facilities for the successful performance of its mission, and

"Requests the Secretary-General to take such administrative and financial measures as may be necessary to enable the Commission of Inquiry, with the terms of reference given in the second paragraph of Council resolution 159(VII).IV, to begin its work with the least possible delay."

E. In Annex A, insert as the first recommendation the following text:

"The Commission decided to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Requests from Governments for Information on Narcotic Drugs.

The Economic and Social Council,

Being informed that it is essential for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in the exercise of its supervision over the application by Governments of the provisions of the international instruments on narcotic drugs, including those synthetically produced, to be furnished with complete and accurate information regarding such application,

Requests the Secretary-General to ask Governments to furnish such explanations or additional information regarding statements contained in annual reports, seizure reports, texts of laws and regulations or in other reports or documents forwarded by them to the Secretary-General, within his functions under the Charter.

(Section 5(a))"

F. In Annex A, insert as the penultimate recommendation the following:

"The Commission decided to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Methods of determining the Origin of Opium by Chemical
and Physical Means

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken into account the replies of Governments to inquiries made by the Secretary-General pursuant to its resolution 159(VII),II,C, on the methods of determining the origin of opium,

Having noted the fact that the Secretary-General does not at present have the material means necessary for the safe keeping of dangerous substances nor laboratory facilities for carrying out

Considering that the Government of the United States of America, supplementing its proposals contained in a communication to the Secretary-General of 19 November 1948 (E/CN.7/159, page 4), has declared its willingness informally and without undertaking any legal obligation, to place United States laboratory facilities at the disposal of the United Nations in a way to be arranged in detail with the Secretary-General for the purpose of:

- (a) enabling officials of the Secretariat to carry out research on the methods of determining the origin of opium by chemical and physical means,
- (b) co-ordinating the research activities undertaken by other Governments in this field,
- (c) maintaining in the custody of the Government of the United States a centre for the distribution and exchange of samples of opium to those scientists and scientific institutions that may be designated by Governments which participate in the joint research project, in accordance with the Council's resolution referred to above,

Requests the Secretary-General to further, within the means available, research on the methods of determining the origin of opium; and

Recommends the Secretary-General to accept, if he finds this desirable, the laboratory facilities which the Government of the United States has offered to place at his disposal for this purpose.

(Section 13)"

G. In Annex A, insert after the last recommendation the following:

"The Commission decided

to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the fact the Commission considered that a period of one month would be entirely insufficient to enable the Commission of Inquiry to complete its work in South America and to urge strongly that this period should be increased to at least three months.

(Section 18)

The Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following resolution:

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE COCA LEAF

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken note that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs elected during its fourth session, in implementation of the Council's

Commission of Inquiry into the effects of chewing the coca leaf:

Professor D. Granier-Doyeux

Mr. H. B. Fonda

Professor F. Verzar

Mr. Razet

Having noted the request of the Government of Bolivia that the Commission of Inquiry should extend its investigations to that country,

Endorses the opinion of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that the Commission of Inquiry should be given adequate time to perform its tasks satisfactorily,

Expresses its satisfaction at the declarations made by the representatives of Bolivia and Peru to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the willingness of these two Governments to grant to the Commission of Inquiry all assistance and facilities for the successful performance of its mission, and

Requests the Secretary-General to take such administrative and financial measures as may be necessary to enable the Commission of Inquiry, with the terms of reference given in the second paragraph of the Council's resolution 159(VII), IV, to begin its work with the least possible delay.

(Section 18)"

H. In Annex B, insert between decisions numbered 10 and 11 the following:

"To accept its Sub-Committee's text of Chapter II, paragraph 2(Annex F) for inclusion in the Form of Annual Reports.

(Section 9(b))"

1. Between Annexes E and G insert new Annex F:
"New Text of Chapter II, paragraph 2, in the Form of Annual Reports to be forwarded by Governments in accordance with Article 21 of the 1931 Convention.
2. Drug addiction:
Please mention:
 - A. Extent of addiction
 1. The Government's estimate of the number of addicts in the country, having regard to
 - (a) those receiving drugs from medical sources,
 - (b) those obtaining drugs from illicit sources,
 - (c) the volume of illicit narcotics seized within the country.
 2. The Government's estimate as to age groupings, especially distinguishing between the young and the elderly, and any information available as to sexes and professions.
 3. What particular drugs are used by addicts or any section of them, with special reference to synthetic drugs.
 4. What is the proportion between the resident addict and the transient addict.
 - B. Treatment of addicts.
 - C. Other Information."
