

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.7/SR.156
24 April 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Seventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 15 April 1952, at 11 a.m.

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<u>Acting Chairman:</u>	Mr. RABASA	Mexico
<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
	Mr. BORATYNSKI	Poland
	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

Also present:

Mr. MAY	Permanent Central Opium Board
Mr. WOLFF	World Health Organization

Secretariat:

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs
Mr. STEINIG	Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. BOLTON	Secretary of the Commission

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared the seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs open.

Question of the representation of China

Mr. ZAKUSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China did not recognize the right of the Kuomintang group to represent China, considered their continuing presence in the United Nations illegal and requested their expulsion from it. His delegation supported that request and proposed that the Commission should invite the representative of the People's Republic of China to participate in its work. He moved that:

"The Commission resolves

"(a) To expel the representative of the Kuomintang group from the Commission;

"(b) To invite the representative of the People's Republic of China to participate in the Commission's work."

/Mr. ANSLINGER

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) reaffirmed his Government's opposition to the expulsion of the representative of the Chinese Government and the admission of a Chinese communist representative. Such action would be entirely inappropriate for a functional commission, particularly in view of the fact that the Chinese communist regime had demonstrated its complete lack of respect for the principles and purposes of the United Nations by its action in Korea.

He moved that the Commission should postpone any further discussion of the question until its next regular session.

ACTING

The/CHAIRMAN put the United States motion, which had precedence under rule 50, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure, to the vote.

The United States motion was adopted by 10 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

Mr. VAILLE (France) explained that he had voted for the United States proposal because he considered, like the United States representative, that the point raised by the USSR representative was a political question, which should not be dealt with in a functional commission.

Mr. AVALOS (Peru) and Mr. KRUYSSSE (Netherlands) said that they had voted in favour of the United States proposal for the same reason.

Mr. HSIA (China) said that a functional Commission like the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was not competent to discuss, still less to settle, a political question. Furthermore, his Government was recognized by the great majority of Members of the United Nations. The USSR representative was, therefore, wasting the Commission's time by repeatedly raising the question.

Mr. ZAKUSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered the Commission's decision on the representation of China illegal. The only legitimate representative of China was the representative of the Central People's Government.

/Mr. BORATYNSKI

Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) associated himself with the USSR representative's statement.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. VAILLE (France), seconded by Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) and Mr. KRUYSSSE (Netherlands), nominated Mr. Rabasa (Mexico) as Chairman.

Mr. Rabasa (Mexico) was unanimously elected Chairman.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), seconded by Mr. OR (Turkey), nominated Mr. Vaille (France) as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Vaille (France) was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

Mr. SHARMAN (Canada), seconded by Mr. VAILLE (France), nominated Mr. Nikolic (Yugoslavia) as Rapporteur.

Mr. Nikolic (Yugoslavia) was unanimously elected Rapporteur.

Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs) welcomed the Commission on the occasion of the opening of its seventh session.

Governments had long recognized the importance of the international control of drugs. The drafting of instruments such as the Hague-International Opium Convention and the instruments concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations, were evidence of that fact.

Few problems were as complex as the international control of narcotic drugs. The United Nations, and particularly the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Secretariat would have to attack the problem from many different angles. The Organization had already achieved some results in that direction. The 1946 Protocol had enabled the Secretary-General to go on with the work begun by the League of Nations, while the Protocol signed at Paris in 1948 had made it possible to set up machinery bringing new drugs

/to which

to which the earlier conventions did not apply under international control. Those protocols had been adopted very quickly and many States had acceded to them. Arrangements for the control of narcotic drugs, both on the national and international plane, had been disrupted by the war, but had since been restored and adapted to new and different requirements. The Commission could not, however, form a true picture of conditions and take the necessary action unless governments regularly transmitted complete and accurate reports on the narcotic drug traffic and on seizures.

Laboratory experiments undertaken with a view to perfecting methods for ascertaining the origin of opium seized in the illicit traffic and the parallel programmes of research set up in a number of countries under the auspices of the United Nations had given encouraging results. The Secretariat also published a quarterly Bulletin on Narcotics, which contained articles on various aspects of the work being done, as well as the latest information on the results achieved by governments, the United Nations and the organs set up under the international conventions for the control of narcotic drugs and the fight against addiction.

No really satisfactory results could be achieved, however, unless the Commission attacked the core of the problem, which was the limitation of raw materials; there could be no final solution until the source of narcotic drugs was brought under control. The Economic and Social Council had already taken up the question of limiting the production of opium, which, despite the development of synthetic drugs, continued to be the most important source of narcotics. But two problems remained -- the question of the coca leaf and that of Indian hemp.

A commission of experts had been sent to Peru and Bolivia to study the effects of the chewing of the coca leaf and to investigate the possibility of limiting its production and regulating its distribution. The Commission would have occasion to examine the experts' report (E/1666) once more and to clarify certain still controversial questions. Indian hemp also constituted a very serious problem, particularly because of the vast area devoted to its cultivation and its widespread use.

The problem of raw materials was especially important in connexion with the single convention which was in the process of being drafted. The existing agreements on the subject might be said to have laid down a new body of law aimed at controlling traffic in the vitally necessary but dangerous drugs. The new draft, prepared by the Secretariat, followed the tradition of the earlier instruments, but left room for the creation of new precedents by a special conference. It was gratifying to see that that aspect of the draft single convention had been noted in the observations Governments had submitted, and that appreciation had been expressed of its legal and technical conception.

It might not be possible to introduce far-reaching innovations for the control of narcotic drugs at the present time. Adoption of the single convention would not represent a radical change in the system of control, but it would constitute an important step towards the development of a system of international administration of narcotics conventions and might affect international co-operation in other fields.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Assistant Secretary-General and said the Commission would bear his recommendations in mind.

Referring to the Commission's previous practice, he suggested that a small Committee consisting of the officers of the Commission and the Canadian representative, should study the provisional agenda and submit a final draft to the Commission at the next meeting.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the heavy agenda and suggested that the Commission should meet daily from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.5 p.m.