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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Fourth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,  
on Wednesday, 1 June 1949, at 3 p.m.

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<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. KRASOVEC	Yugoslavia
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. GRANDE	Canada
	Mr. HSIA	China
	Brigadier EL-KOULI Bey	Egypt
	Mr. BOURGOIS	France
	Mr. NANDA	India
	Mr. ARLALAN	Iran
	Mr. RABASA	Mexico
	Mr. KRUYSSSE	Netherlands
	Mr. AVALOS	Peru
	Mr. RUDZINSKI	Poland
	Mr. OR	Turkey
	Mr. ZAKUSOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. HUTSON	United Kingdom
	Mr. ANSLINGER	United States of America
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. STEINIG	Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Social Affairs
	Mr. PASTUHOV	Secretary of the Commission

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STATEMENT BY IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE CONCERNING THE FORM OF ANNUAL REPORTS (E/NR.1948/FORM)

Mr. ARDAIAN (Iran) said that he had not understood that the whole question of the form of annual reports had been completed at a previous meeting and he wished to make a few comments on the subject. First, he asked which of the questions contained in the form was considered the most difficult for Governments to answer satisfactorily and which questions were considered the most important.

Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat) said that failure to reply to any of the questions specifically asked would make an annual report incomplete. Sometimes Governments were unable to furnish all the information requested, in which case they often explained the reasons. It was important that the Commission should receive full information on all the points mentioned in the form. The questions which Governments found most difficult to answer depended entirely on the administration of the country concerned. Some countries found it difficult to report on subjects requiring statistical information, such as their trade, production and consumption. Others had difficulties in reporting administrative changes.

Mr. ARDAIAN (Iran) said that he realized the importance of the annual reports but felt that they should be concise and constructive and should concentrate on the essentials rather than on lengthy details. He therefore suggested that paragraphs 1 and 2 of the section entitled "Laws and Publications" (E/NR.1948/FORM) might be replaced by one paragraph reading as follows:

"Please attach copies of all new laws, orders and regulations that have been issued during the year on the question of opium and other dangerous drugs, including synthetic drugs".

Thus, instead of supplying the titles and dates of all new laws and giving a brief indication of the principal points covered by each of them, Governments would simply attach copies of all such laws. In that way, much time and trouble would be saved and fuller information would be supplied.

Paragraph 2 of the section headed "Control of International Trade" might well be omitted, since similar information had already been

requested under paragraph 1 (a) of the previous section, "Administration". Paragraphs 3 and 5 of the section "Control of International Trade" could also be omitted since the information they requested could be supplied under paragraph 1 of the same section.

Paragraph 4 of the section "Illicit Traffic" could be omitted since the required information would be given under paragraph 3 of the same section. The last sentence of paragraph 6 in the section "Raw Opium" could be omitted as any important changes in taxation would be mentioned under section I, "Laws and Publications".

He was not in a position to make any similar suggestions with regard to the sections on the coca leaf and manufactured drugs, but he hoped that the countries concerned with those questions might make suggestions towards shortening annual reports and limiting them to the essential points.

He hoped that the Secretariat would take his suggestions into consideration and give its views on the subject at the following session.

The CHAIRMAN said that there could be no further discussion on the subject during the current session, but that the proposals made by the representative of Iran would certainly be considered at the following one.

NOMINATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE COCA LEAF  
(E/CN.7/164, E/CN.7/164/Add.1 to 4, and E/CN.7/W.49)

The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any written proposal on the subject, the Secretariat had prepared a draft resolution taking into account the opinions expressed at the previous meeting.

The SECRETARY read the following draft resolution prepared by the Secretariat:

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

"COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF CHEWING 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 Resolution 202 (VIII), the following experts to membership of the Commission of Inquiry into the effects of chewing the coca leaf:

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . . ,

"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 to begin its work with the least possible delay."

The CHAIRMAN said that the report would include the views expressed by members to the effect that one month would not be sufficient for the Commission of Inquiry to complete its investigations and that the time should be extended to three months. The two final paragraphs of the above resolution should be read in the light of that part of the report.

/In reply to

In reply to a question by the representative of Canada, Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat) said that the words "...should be given adequate time to perform its tasks satisfactorily" would be interpreted in the light of the recommendation in the report to the effect that the Commission of Inquiry should be given at least three months to complete its work. If the Economic and Social Council decided that three months was an adequate period, the Secretary-General would then be able to allocate the necessary funds for that period, provided that sufficient funds remained in the appropriate section of the budget.

Mr. HUTSON (United Kingdom) reiterated his opinion that the Commission of Inquiry would require considerable time to make any progress. It might even be necessary to call upon further experts on such matters as food and agriculture. Nevertheless, he was prepared to accept the draft resolution submitted by the Secretariat in view of the explanations given and because of the urgency of the question.

Mr. HSIA (China) said that he had been anxious, at the previous meeting, lest any decision involving extra expenditure might delay the despatch of the Commission of Inquiry. In view of the assurances that had been given that all the difficulties could be overcome and the Commission could start work by September 1949, as originally planned, he was prepared to support the draft resolution submitted by the Secretariat

Mr. AVALOS (Peru) reaffirmed his hope that the resolution of the Economic and Social Council would be fully implemented. He agreed to support the Secretariat resolution and explained that he had not himself submitted a draft resolution because he had not wished to influence the Commission's decision.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) reminded members of the important work done by the Government of Colombia in connexion with coca leaf chewing. If the Commission of Inquiry was to extend its work over several months, the Government of Colombia would doubtless invite it to visit that country. He wondered whether some provision should not be included in the draft resolution to cover that eventuality.

/Mr. STEINIG

Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat) said that the Economic and Social Council, in Resolution 123 (VI) C, had requested the Secretary-General to submit a detailed plan for the despatch of a commission of inquiry to Peru, taking into account any request which might be received from other countries concerned. The Secretary-General would have to submit a financial estimate to the Council and he could only base that estimate on existing facts. It would be very difficult to deal with any further requests which might be received after the Council had taken its final decision, unless the Council was prepared to give the Commission of Inquiry full discretion in the matter. It should also be borne in mind that the experts who made up the Commission of Inquiry might not be in a position to leave their normal posts for a long period.

Mr. HSIA (China) said that it was really for the Council, in the last resort, to decide which countries the Commission of Inquiry should visit.

Mr. NANDA (India) pointed out that the Commission of Inquiry had been referred to by the Council as a commission "to investigate the effects of chewing the coca leaf and the possibilities of limiting its production and controlling its distribution". The heading used in the Secretariat draft resolution covered only one of those points.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that some alteration should be made in the heading. It would be very clumsy if all the functions of the Commission were included in the title, and he therefore suggested that the title should be simply "Commission of Inquiry on the Coca Leaf". Then, to show exactly what its functions were, the following phrase could be added at the end of the final paragraph of the draft resolution: "...in accordance with the terms of reference laid down in the Council's Resolution 159 (VII), IV".

It was so agreed.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 3.55 p.m. in closed session for the election of members of the Commission of Inquiry.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 36 of the rules of procedure of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, a secret ballot would be taken regarding the individuals who were to be appointed to the Commission of Inquiry. He referred to the bibliographical data in documents E/CN.7/164 and addenda and E/CN.7/W.49 regarding the five candidates proposed for membership by the World Health Organization and the two candidates proposed by Governments.

Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat) said that the World Health Organization had very recently completed the information concerning one of its candidates, Mr. Verzar, to the effect that he was of Hungarian nationality.

Mr. AVALOS (Peru) suggested that, though he did not wish to influence the Commission in its choice, the Commission of Inquiry might have a greater chance of success if its members spoke Spanish.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. HSIA (China), Brigadier EL-KOULI Bey (Egypt) and Mr. KRUYSSSE (Netherlands) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot, as follows:

Mr. Verzar .....	10
Mr. Pereira .....	6
Mr. Granier-Doyeux .....	5
Mr. Mayoral Pardo .....	4
Mr. Pernambuco Filho .....	3
Mr. Fonda .....	14
Mr. Razet .....	14

The CHAIRMAN announced that Mr. Verzar, having received more than half of the votes cast, would be one of the two medical experts; for the second, the Commission would be requested to vote on the next two candidates, Mr. Pereira or Mr. Granier-Doyeux, neither of whom had obtained half of the votes cast. The two candidates proposed by Governments, Mr. Fonda and Mr. Razet, would be the experts in the international administration and control of narcotic drugs.

With the same tellers, a vote was taken by secret ballot, as follows:

Mr. Granier-Doyeux .....	8
Mr. Pereira .....	6

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Granier-Doyeux would be the second medical expert on the Commission of Inquiry. The four nominees would be informed of all details concerning the departure and programme of the Commission of Inquiry immediately after the ninth session of the Economic and Social Council.

OTHER QUESTIONS

French translation of "Commission of Inquiry"

Mr. BOURGOIS (France) said that the translation given in the Secretariat documents of the title of the Commission was "Commission d'enquete" which had a disparaging connotation. He suggested that the words "information" or "etude" might be preferable.

Mr. STEINIG (Secretariat) suggested, and Mr. BOURGOIS (France) agreed, that the Commission should recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the French title of the Commission of Inquiry should be changed to meet the objection which had been raised.

It was so decided.

International Criminal Police Commission

Mr. KRUYSSSE (Netherlands) thanked the Secretariat for the documentation with which he had been provided in connexion with the International Criminal Police Commission. He thought that the matter had been fully discussed at an earlier meeting, and might be considered closed.

Financial and economic assistance to compensate opium-producing countries

Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) called attention to the fact that, when the provisions for the limitation of opium production came into force in about two years' time, the national and governmental budgets of opium-producing countries would be considerably reduced. Steps would have to be taken to replace the lost income, and, in view of the sacrifices made by the countries in question, assistance might be provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund. Moreover, a decision that export allocations for opium-producing countries were to be based on previous production would ensure fair treatment. The Commission should make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council to that effect.

/The CHAIRMAN



The CHAIRMAN said that such recommendations should be made only after full consideration by the Commission, which would have to be postponed until the following session.

Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) suggested that the matter might be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee of representatives of the principal opium-producing countries which was to meet in Istanbul in August or September.

The CHAIRMAN said that it would be open to any member of that Committee to raise the question at that time.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.