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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Tenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 6 May 1955, at 11.10 a.m.

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Illicit traffic:

Reports on the illicit traffic in 1954 (E/CN.7/292, 293;  
E/CN.7/R.4 and Add.1 to 7; E/NS.1954/Summaries 2 to 10;  
E/NS.1955/Summaries 1 and 2; E/CN.7/L.115 and Add.1)(continued)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. VAILLE	France
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. SALDANHA	India
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HOSSICK	Canada
	Mr. WEI	China
	Mr. LABIB	Egypt
	Mr. PANOPOULOS	Greece
	Mr. ARDALAN	Iran
	Mr. RABASA	Mexico
	Mr. CALLE y CALLE	Peru
	Mr. KULAGA )	Poland
	Mr. FORYS )	
	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. NIKOLIC	Yugoslavia
<u>Observers:</u>	U PAW HTIN	Burma
	Mr. DANNER	Federal Republic of Germany
	Mr. KIDRON	Israel
	Mr. TANCREDI	Italy
	Miss YAMANE	Japan
	Mr. GEBARA	Lebanon
<u>Also present:</u>	Sir Harry GREENFIELD )	Permanent Central Opium Board
	Mr. MAY )	
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>	Dr. HALBACH	World Health Organization
<u>Representatives of non-governmental organizations:</u>		
	<u>Category B and Register:</u> Mrs. SMITH	International Council of Nurses
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. YATES	Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs
	Mr. PASTUHOV	Secretary of the Commission

The CHAIRMAN welcomed, on behalf of the Commission, Sir Harry Greenfield, President of the Permanent Central Opium Board.

ILLICIT TRAFFIC: REPORTS ON THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN 1954 (E/CN.7/292, 293; E/CN.7/R.4 and Add.1 to 7; E/NS.1954/Summaries 2 to 10; E/NS.1955/Summaries 1 and 2; (E/CN.7/L.115 and Add.1) (continued)

Parts I and II of the report of the Committee on Seizures (E/CN.7/L.115)

Paragraphs 1 to 6

Paragraphs 1 to 6 were approved.

Paragraphs 7 to 21 (raw opium)

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Committee on Seizures, said the Committee had wished to show its appreciation in paragraph 8 of the action taken by the Government of Burma in dealing with the illicit traffic in raw opium. As the opium originated elsewhere, Burma was making a praiseworthy effort on behalf of humanity in general.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) drew attention to the references in the Committee's report to opium originating on the Chinese mainland. On 2 July 1954 a New China News Agency despatch from Peking had specifically denied the charge he had made in the Commission in May 1954 that the Chinese Communist regime was selling heroin and opium abroad in large quantities. The conditions in South East Asian and other countries refuted that unsupported denial and clearly proved that, apart from the existing lines of traffic out of Tientsin, Tsingtao and Canton, the Chinese Communist regime was pouring opium, morphine and heroin over the Yunnan border. There was no doubt that the Chinese mainland was the uncontrolled reservoir supplying the illicit narcotics traffic.

Pharmaceutical plants had been established on the Chinese mainland to process opium into morphine and heroin, and those drugs, as well as raw opium, were used as bartering commodities. Traffickers in those narcotics said that officials of the Communist regime were making huge profits on the opium bought from the growers.

(Mr. Anslinger, USA)

Opium reached the Thai border from Yunnan Province by horse and mule train. From 200 to 400 tons of raw opium annually moved through Thailand from the Chinese mainland, and the illicit traffic around Chiengrai, in northern Thailand, was the most intense in the world. The opium arriving at Bangkok by boat, lorry, railroad and aircraft was priced at \$40,000 per ton.

Crude morphine was sold in Bangkok by traffickers in narcotics from Communist China at the rate of \$475 a pound. Heroin from those traffickers sold for \$2,000 - \$3,000 a pound in Japan.

In that connexion he cited the following cases: (1) the smuggling of 20 pounds of heroin into Japan in 1954; (2) an attempt in October 1953 to induce an airline pilot in Bangkok to make eight flights to Macao with opium from mainland China; (3) the smuggling of 23 pounds of heroin and morphine from Yunnan via Chiengrai to Bangkok by a group including an official of the Bank of Canton; (4) the arrest at a trans-shipment point on 15 July 1954 of an airline hostess with a two-pound package of morphine; (5) the arrest in 1955 at Hong Kong of a Chinese courier arriving by air with approximately 7 pounds of pure heroin trans-shipped at Bangkok; (6) the similar arrest of an American at Hong Kong with approximately 40 pounds of opium and morphine originating in Communist China and trans-shipped at Bangkok.

Another smuggling route ran from Tengyueh, in Yunnan Province, through Myitkyina and Lashio in Burma. In spite of the laudable efforts of the Burmese Government to control the illicit traffic, hundreds of tons of cleaned and packaged opium in one-kilogramme units entered from Yunnan. About 43 tons of opium were consumed annually in one small area along the border but the amount of opium in the traffic through Burma far surpassed the amount consumed within the country. Still another route ran from the Chinese mainland through Kentung and across Burma to river, rail and road connexions below Mandalay. At Rangoon, much of the opium was transferred to coastal steamers for further shipment at Penang and Singapore. In that connexion, he cited a seizure on 4 August 1953 of 16.8 kilogrammes of high quality morphine 80 miles south of Mandalay, a seizure on 17 April 1954 of 43.5 pounds 50 miles from Rangoon and a seizure in Mandalay on 18 December 1954 of 140.8 kilogrammes of opium en route from Lashio on the Burma Road.

(Mr. Anslinger, USA)

Millions of dollars obtained through the sale of opium and other narcotics were used by the Chinese Communist regime for political purposes and to finance its agents. An airline official in the Far East had been found smuggling heroin and currency for the Chinese Communist regime. A trafficker in narcotics from the Chinese mainland had attempted to arrange for the transport by air of a ton of morphine to the United States. In March 1954, narcotics traffickers had offered to charter a PBY aircraft to carry 10 tons of opium to a world-wide narcotics smuggling ring with headquarters in Macao. Both opium and crude morphine had been carried by air from otherwise inaccessible points under Chinese Communist control to trans-shipment areas where the drug had been loaded on surface craft.

In Japan, a member of the Communist Party had revealed that an affiliated organization had made tremendous profits through the sale of heroin and that it had adopted a resolution to finance its activities by selling narcotics in various establishments patronized by United States personnel in the Tokyo area. One of the heroin peddlers had been an executive member of a Tokyo District Group of the Communist Party and had been engaged in the collection of Party funds.

In that connexion, he cited arrests of traffickers in March and July 1954 connected with the Kakyo Building, a centre of Communist traffickers. The narcotics seized bore marks identical with the contraband routed through Bangkok from Yunnan Province. A leader of those operations had been the notorious Li Chin-sui, a dealer in heroin from mainland China since 1949, who had operated a company which was actually a branch office of the South China Trade Bureau.

On 16 November 1954, the Kyodo News Agency had reported that 70 million dollars' worth of narcotics had been shipped from the Chinese Mainland in 1952 and the Director of the Japanese Public Security Investigation Board had stated that 15,500,000 dollars' worth of narcotics from the Chinese Mainland had been sold in Japan in 1952.

According to a Pyongyang broadcast of 29 December 1953, special factories were being built in North Korea to extract morphine from opium, and a North Korean agent arrested in South Korea had stated that Communist China was furnishing North Korea with technical specialists to operate narcotics manufacturing plants. Tremendous quantities of heroin from Communist China had

(Mr. Anslinger, USA)

reached South Korea through North Korea since 1947, and the United States authorities had had to hospitalize some of the soldiers who had become addicts.

He cited the following seizures in the United States of heroin from Communist China: (1) in connexion with a seizure in St. Louis, the source trafficker in Japan had stated that he had obtained heroin from the Chinese Communist regime through the deck crews of ships; (2) on 2 February 1954, twenty ounces of heroin with the characteristic properties of heroin from Communist Chinese laboratories had been seized from a seaman on the SS President Arthur; (3) on 18 November 1954, twenty-five ounces of heroin trans-shipped at Bangkok had been seized from Chinese crew members of a ship at Staten Island; (4) on 4 November 1954, twenty-eight ounces of pure heroin trans-shipped at Hong Kong had been seized at Santa Cruz, California from crew members of the SS President Cleveland; and (5) on 18 January 1955, five pounds of heroin had been seized at Los Angeles from a ship arriving from the Far East.

After drawing attention to evidence of Chinese Communist narcotics traffic in Burma, Korea and Thailand as reported in document E/CN.7/R.4/Add.3, he observed that mere denials by the Chinese Communist regime did not constitute an answer to the documentation of that traffic.

Mr. WEI (China) said that his people had suffered greatly from the narcotics warfare of the Chinese Communists, and information in the possession of his Government not only confirmed the evidence and the conclusion of the United States representative but showed that the threat was more dangerous than was generally supposed. After his Government had practically wiped out opium cultivation and smoking in China, the Chinese Communist regime had resumed the mass production of opium on the mainland. According to a report prepared by his Government for submission to the United Nations, approximately 275,000 hectares had been devoted to opium cultivation in Communist China during 1954, with production conservatively estimated at over 2,500 tons, or about four times the total medical and scientific needs of the world.

After describing the profits accruing to the Chinese Communist regime from the illicit traffic, especially in South East Asia, he said that the number of narcotics factories on the Chinese Mainland was estimated at more than 50, and his Government's report to the United Nations cited the names and locations of 13 of those factories together with their trademarks and principal products. In

addition to the evidence in United Nations documents of illicit traffic from the Chinese Mainland into Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Korea, Mr. Nagahama, of the Narcotics Section of the Japanese Ministry of Welfare, had stated in the introduction to Deverall's well-documented and useful book, published by the American Federation of Labor, Red China's Dirty Drug War, that most of the narcotic drugs entering Japan came from the Asian mainland.

The narcotic traffic was a powerful double-edged weapon: it provided gold, fuel and strategic materials for Communist China, and at the same time spread addiction, corruption, poverty and crime, thus creating situations favourable for Communist activities. Whereas in the past the illicit traffic had been directed by profit-seeking traffickers and corrupt Government officials, it was now organized and operated by powerful Communist syndicates.

It was time for the Commission to draw the world's attention to the new danger because any Government that tolerated addiction was planting the seeds of its own destruction.

Miss VASILYEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that at the 285th meeting the Commission had adopted a resolution providing that countries accused of illicit traffic should be informed of such allegations and be given the opportunity to verify and comment on them. The USSR delegation strongly protested against and repudiated the politically motivated attacks against a great country that had been illegally denied a seat on the Commission and was unable to reply to such attacks.

As the Commission was well aware, the Chinese People's Republic had taken strong measures to eradicate the age-old social evil that had plagued China prior to the assumption of power by the Central People's Government. That was acknowledged even by the New York Daily News, which in a recent despatch had reported the conversion of extensive poppy-growing fields in South China to cotton cultivation.

Mr. KULAGA (Poland) said that there could be no doubt about the political character of the patently untrue, even fantastic, allegations that had been made against the People's Republic of China.

(Mr. Kulaga, Poland)

The details of China's vast campaign against drug addiction, a vestige of former conditions resulting from the policies of imperialist Powers and the Kuomintang regime, would be found in document E/2233. The despatch in the New York Daily News of 13 February 1955 had been based on the statement of a Singapore customs official. It clearly refuted the allegations the Commission had just heard.

Mr. WEI (China), replying to the representatives of Poland and the Soviet Union, said that it was obvious from their statements that the opium poppy was cultivated over large areas of China.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), also replying to the representatives of Poland and the Soviet Union, quoted from the annual report of Burma for 1953 (E/NR.1953/124) to show that there had been 500 seizures of opium smuggled into Burma by land from China during the period covered by the report. The report of Laos for the same year mentioned that the retreating Vietminh forces had taken with them a substantial part of the available opium stocks.

Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) objected to the mention of "Iranian-type opium" in paragraph 11. No country should be mentioned until the origin of the seized opium had been established beyond all doubt by chemical and physical tests. The Iranian Government would be glad to co-operate in order to establish the origin of drugs seized in other countries, as it was making great efforts to put down the illicit traffic. It had seized large quantities of opium in 1953 and fines totalling nearly 130,000 dollars in value had been imposed on traffickers. A bill to impose severer penalties for drug smuggling had been submitted to Parliament. The Iranian Government needed the co-operation of other countries in its struggle against the illicit traffic. It would be delighted to supply information when requested with regard to seizures that might be of Iranian origin, but no statement that they were Iranian should be made until the fact had been proved.



Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) said that the opium seized in Singapore had not been subjected to chemical and physical tests and that that was why the expressions "Iranian-type" and "Yunnan-type" opium had been used. The two types were quite distinct and known locally under those names. He appreciated the Iranian representative's point, however, and was considering whether the Secretariat methods of analysis could be introduced into Singapore. He was happy to know that the Iranian representative would welcome such a move. It was disquieting that the proportion of Iranian-type opium reaching Singapore had increased from 2 1/2 per cent of all seizures in 1953, when the Iranian oil ports had been inactive, to 46 1/2 per cent in 1954.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) supported the Iranian representative. He had made a similar statement on behalf of his own Government, which was to be found in paragraph 79 of the report of the Committee on Seizures (E/CN.7/L.115/Add.1).

Supported by Mr. PANOPOULOS (Greece), the CHAIRMAN suggested that a sentence on the following lines should be inserted under the heading "Raw Opium": "Following statements by the representatives of Iran and Turkey, it was recognized that the indications of the origin of seizures given in this chapter are in most cases not based on physical and chemical analyses and in many cases have not been approved by the competent authorities of the countries of origin."

It was so decided.

With the above amendment, paragraphs 7 to 21 were approved in principle.

Prepared opium (paragraph 22)

Paragraph 22 was approved without discussion.

Morphine base and morphine (paragraphs 23 to 25)

The CHAIRMAN noted that although the Government of Thailand had been asked to supply information with regard to the seizures of morphine base in Thailand, and had been invited to send an observer to the meeting of the Commission at which the point would be discussed, no information had been received and no observer was present.

Mr. GEBARA (Observer for Lebanon) pointed out that the morphine base seized in the Lebanon (paragraph 25) could not have originated there, as his country produced hashish only.

Paragraphs 23 to 25 were adopted in principle.

Diacetylmorphine (paragraphs 26 to 33)

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) said the attention of the Portuguese Government must be drawn to the fact that large quantities of acetic anhydride were being transported to Macao, unquestionably for the manufacture of heroin.

Paragraphs 26 to 33 were adopted in principle.

Cocaine (paragraph 34)

Mr. CALLE y CALLE (Peru) protested against the mention of Peru in paragraph 34. The Committee on Seizures had worked on documents which were listed in paragraph 5 of its report; but neither in those documents nor in other documents submitted to the Commission was there any mention of Peru as the origin of illicit cocaine. To prove that point, he drew attention to paragraph 77 of document E/CN.7/292, the summaries of illicit transactions and seizures for 1954, and the memorandum by the International Criminal Police Commission for 1954 (E/CN.7/293). Paragraph 25 of the latter document mentioned various countries as the origin of the cocaine seized, but there was no reference to Peru. Two seizures of cocaine made at New York were mentioned in E/NS/1955/Summaries 1 and 2. The origin of one lot was unknown, the other had come from Bolivia.

(Mr. Calle y Calle, Peru)

He hoped that the Government of the member from whom the Committee on Seizures had heard the disturbing reports that clandestine factories manufacturing crude cocaine were becoming a serious problem in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru had informed the Governments of those countries of those reports so that they could locate and destroy the factories. The Peruvian Government would welcome any information which would enable it to combat the illicit traffic. There had been only two cases during 1954, apart from routine cases of local interest only. In both cases, the arrest of the trafficker had led to the discovery and the closing down of the clandestine laboratory concerned. The Peruvian police were active and vigilant, and if any further centres of illicit manufacture were discovered, his Government would inform the Secretariat. The matter could then be discussed at the Commission's next session.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) said that the United States Government had informed the Governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru of the seizures of cocaine made in New York. It was anxious to prevent a recrudescence of illicit trafficking in cocaine, which had been on the decrease, and its action in no way reflected on the authorities of those countries.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) pointed out that in the case mentioned in paragraph 66 concerning the arrest at a Turkish airport of the wife of a government official, the drug seized was cocaine and not heroin, and asked that the Committee's report should be amended to show that fact. He also drew attention to a case, which had recently been brought to his attention by his country's authorities, involving a student in Turkey, who upon arrest was found to have on him a certain number of bottles marked "Swiss cocaine", and who was now awaiting sentence.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the seizures referred to should be mentioned in paragraph 66 of the report.

It was so decided.

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Seizures, said that the Committee had felt that it should draw attention to the

(Mr. Walker, United Kingdom)

increased traffic in cocaine in its report. He realized that he had been at fault in not ensuring that the representative of Peru was present when the question of clandestine factories in his country was discussed by the Committee. In view of the Peruvian representative's statement, he suggested that paragraph 34 should be amended and that two sentences drafted along the following lines should be inserted after the third sentence: "The representative of Peru confirmed that his Government was concerned at the existence of the illicit manufacture of cocaine in that country. Seizures had been made and clandestine laboratories closed. His Government was continuing to exercise the fullest possible vigilance with regard to that problem." If that amendment was adopted, the words "and Peru" should be deleted in the second sentence, and the word "and" inserted between the words "Bolivia" and "Ecuador".

The proposal was adopted.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia), referring to the Peruvian representative's statement, pointed out that cocaine was not produced in Yugoslavia and was the only drug imported by his country. The statement in the memorandum of the International Criminal Police Commission for 1954 (E/CN.7/293) that the cocaine seized originated in Yugoslavia was therefore incorrect.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of France, pointed out that a statement that seized cocaine originated in a certain country did not necessarily mean that the drug had been manufactured in that country. In accordance with the various conventions information obtained from drug traffickers had to be included in the annual reports in order that the countries in which the narcotic drugs were said to have originated could take the necessary action.

The French authorities had also noticed the increase in the illicit traffic in cocaine, and he therefore suggested that attention should be drawn to that increase in the Commission's report.

It was so decided.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) suggested that the Peruvian representative should request his Government to submit a report on the seizures he had mentioned.

Mr. CALLE y CALLE (Peru) said that the report requested would be submitted.

Paragraph 34, as amended, was adopted.

Cannabis (paragraphs 35 to 39)

Mr. PANOPOULOS (Greece) suggested the deletion of the words "cannabis resin" in paragraph 35.

It was so decided.

Paragraphs 35 to 39 were adopted.

Synthetic drugs (paragraphs 40 to 46)

Miss YAMANE (Observer for Japan), referring to paragraph 42, emphasized that the seizures of "aminobutane" mentioned had included stocks held at the time the Order issued in March 1954, placing that drug under control, had come into force. The Japanese Government felt that the large seizures made were a temporary phenomenon.

The date "31 March 1954" in the fifth line of paragraph 42 should read "1 March 1954," and the phrase "on 1 March 1954" in the seventh line should be replaced by the words "during March 1954."

The amendments proposed were adopted.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) suggested the deletion of the words "and frank" in the twelfth line of paragraph 42.

It was so decided.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey), referring to paragraph 45, said that it did not give a true picture of the proposal which he had submitted to the Committee on Seizures, and which that Committee had rejected. He suggested that the paragraph should be amended accordingly and should also show the percentage increase in the

(Mr. Ozkol, Turkey)

use of synthetic narcotic drugs. He also suggested the deletion of the last sentence.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Turkish representative should contact the Chairman of the Committee on Seizures and the Rapporteur of the Commission as regards his amendment referring to the percentage increase in the use of synthetic narcotic drugs. He then put to the vote the proposal that the last sentence of paragraph 45 should be deleted.

The proposal was rejected by 6 votes to 6 with 3 abstentions.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) was surprised to note that two members of the Committee on Seizures - the representatives of Egypt and Greece - who had supported the adoption of that Committee's report, had voted for the Turkish proposal.

Mr. HOSSICK (Canada) associated himself with the remarks of the United States representative.

Mr. RABASA (Mexico) explained that he had taken the same position as regards the Turkish representative's proposal as he had in the Committee on Seizures.

Mr. LABIB (Egypt) said that, although he had voted for the adoption of the report of the Committee on Seizures at the time that report was discussed by that Committee, he had understood that the Turkish representative's proposal regarding the danger of synthetic drugs would be discussed again by the Commission, and had voted for that proposal.

The CHAIRMAN put paragraph 45 to the vote.

Paragraph 45 was adopted by 7 votes to 3 with 5 abstentions.

Mr. OZKOL (Turkey) explained that he had voted against paragraph 45 because, to his great disappointment, the Commission had not agreed to the

(Mr. Ozkol, Turkey)

deletion of the last sentence and had rejected his proposal that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the danger of synthetic narcotic drugs and that they should be asked to take the necessary measures in that connexion pending the entry into force of the single convention.

Mr. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) said that he had voted against paragraph 45.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as representative of France, said that he was fully aware of the danger of synthetic narcotic drugs, and had voted in favour of paragraph 45 because he felt that the Committee's report drew attention to that danger.

Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) said that he had abstained from voting because although he supported the first part of paragraph 45, he could not support the last sentence.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.