

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1289 (XLIV). Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and final report of the Permanent Central Narcotics Board and of the Drug Supervisory Body

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its twenty-second session²⁴ and of the final report of the Permanent Central Narcotics Board and the Drug Supervisory Body on their work in 1967.²⁵

1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.

1290 (XLIV). Regional co-operation in the Near and Middle East in the campaign against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the continuing seriousness of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in the Near and Middle East,

Noting that the efforts made individually by the Governments of the countries concerned are proving insufficient,

Conscious of the need for close co-operation between countries having a common frontier,

1. *Recommends* that the countries in the region which are concerned with the problem should convene a meeting of their qualified representatives to make an effective study of all aspects of the campaign against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in the region;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within the limits of existing budgetary resources, to provide any necessary advice and assistance at such a meeting.

1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.

1291 (XLIV). The abuse of cannabis and the continuing need for strict control

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,²⁶ obliges Parties to place cannabis under strict controls to prevent its abuse,

Considering that the problem of the traffic in and abuse of cannabis remains serious in many areas where it has long been encountered,

Observing that the traffic in and abuse of cannabis appears to be spreading to areas where it has not heretofore been encountered,

Noting that considerable publicity has been given to unauthoritative statements minimizing the harmful effects of cannabis and advocating that its use be permitted for non-medical purposes,

Recognizing that cannabis is known, *inter alia*, to distort perception of time and space, modify mood and impair judgement, which may result in unpredictable

²⁴ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/4455).

²⁵ E/OB/23 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XI.3).

²⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.XI.1.

behaviour, violence and adverse effects on health, and that it may be associated with the abuse of other drugs such as LSD, stimulants and heroin,

Convinced that inefficient controls over, apathy towards and lack of public awareness of the dangers of cannabis and its continued abuse contribute to drug dependence, create law enforcement problems, and injure national health, safety and welfare,

1. *Recommends* that all countries concerned increase their efforts to eradicate the abuse of and illicit traffic in cannabis;

2. *Further recommends* that Governments should promote research and advance additional medical and sociological information regarding cannabis, and effectively deal with publicity which advocates legalization or tolerance of the non-medical use of cannabis as a harmless drug.

1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.

1292 (XLIV). Replacement of cannabis cultivation in Lebanon

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the problem of cannabis cultivation in Lebanon has engaged the attention of the competent international organs for several years,

Recognizing that if the Government of Lebanon succeeds in eradicating such cultivation, this will have a significant beneficial effect in fighting the illicit traffic in cannabis and cannabis resin in the region,

Having been informed of the project of the Government of Lebanon to introduce the subsidized cultivation of sunflower seeds and other crops as a substitute for cannabis cultivation,

1. *Congratulates* the Government of Lebanon on this promising and salutary initiative;

2. *Expresses the hope* that Lebanon will succeed in implementing the project to suppress cannabis cultivation;

3. *Urges* the Government of Lebanon to continue giving due priority to this project;

4. *Recommends* that the Government's effort should be supported by all possible technical assistance within the resources and criteria of the United Nations programmes of technical assistance and those of the specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to maintain close liaison with the Government of Lebanon on the development of its effort and to report thereupon periodically to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the Council, for such time as is necessary.

1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.

1293 (XLIV). National legislative measures for the control of psychotropic substances not under international control

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned at the continuing problem posed by the abuse of psychotropic substances not under interna-