

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

LIMITED  
E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.1\*  
21 November 1949  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH  
DOCUMENTS  
INDEX UNIT  
MASTER

21 DEC 1949

mto / W.

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Ad hoc Committee of the Principal Opium-producing Countries

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ankara,  
on Monday, 21 November 1949, at 11 a.m.

Contents:

1. OPENING OF SESSION AND SPEECH OF WELCOME BY THE MINISTER FOR HYGIENE AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (Item 2 of the Agenda)
3. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS
4. PROGRAMME OF WORK

CHAIRMAN: His Excellency, Mr. Kemali BAYIZIT, Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare of the Republic of Turkey

later His Excellency, Mr. Ali R. TARHAN

Present:

Members:

India	Mr. COEHLÖ
Iran	Mr. AMINI
Turkey	Mr. KARABUDA
Yugoslavia	Mr. KUSOVITCH

Observers:

China	Mr. JEN KI-SIN
Egypt	Dr. LABIB
France	Mr. SUSINI
Netherlands	Mr. de JONGH
United States of America	Mr. MERRILL

\* This document has been reproduced at New York, in a limited number of copies, from the original issued at Ankara under the erroneous symbol E/CN.7/AC.1/SR.L.1.

/Also present:

Also present:

Mr. KRASOVEC

Chairman of the Commission  
on Narcotic Drugs

Secretariat:

Mr. STEINIG

Representative of the Secretary-  
General, Director of the  
Division of Narcotic Drugs

Mr. MASAR

Division of Narcotic Drugs

Mr. BOLTON

Secretary to the Committee

N.B.

A complete list of Government representatives, observers and advisers has been circulated as document E/CN.7/AC.1/L.4.

1. OPENING OF SESSION AND SPEECH OF WELCOME BY THE MINISTER FOR HYGIENE AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

His Excellency Mr. BAYIZIT, Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare of the Republic of Turkey, declaring open the session of the Ad hoc Committee of the Principal Opium-Producing Countries, welcomed representatives on behalf of the Government of Turkey, and emphasized that, despite its apparently economic character, the work of the Committee could not fail to have wide humanitarian repercussions.

He recalled that, in their efforts to relieve mankind of the miseries caused by the non-medical use of opium, civilized countries had found it necessary, ever since 1912, to conclude agreements and conventions for the international control of the export, import, and even the distribution of opium and other dangerous drugs: those instruments had been progressively revised wherever experience had revealed weaknesses in them.

However, despite the limitations and restrictions prescribed by such international treaties, drugs capable of producing addiction were still at their work of destruction, which fact provided ample justification for making a final revision of existing conventions. That might be achieved at the conference for the simplification of the relevant existing international instruments which it was proposed to convene at a later date.

He emphasized how lamentable it was that opium, a substance which for thousands of years had helped to relieve the physical sufferings of mankind, should continue to be put to humiliating and degrading uses.

Expressing the firm conviction that international measures to abolish that scourge, which was sapping the health and moral of millions of human beings, would be undertaken in the near future under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council, he said that it was certain that the work of the Ad hoc Committee would contribute in large measure to the success of future conferences which would have to deal with that grave social problem. He wished the Committee every success in its labours.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (Item 2 of the Agenda)

Mr. KRASOVEC, Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thanked the Minister for Hygiene and Social Welfare for his cordial welcome, and for the flattering remarks he had made concerning the work already carried out in the field of the

international control of narcotics by the Economic and Social Council and its Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Minister had rightly implied that the results of the work of the Ad hoc Committee would form the foundation for all future work in that field. He could assure the Minister that all the Governments represented at the session, and the Ad hoc Committee as a whole, were fully conscious of their responsibilities in the matter.

He wished also to say, with the greatest pleasure that, as the result of joint consultations between all representatives of producing countries present, the latter had authorized him to announce that it was their unanimous desire that His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan should preside over the Committee's deliberations.

He therefore declared Mr. Tarhan unanimously elected Chairman.

His Excellency Mr. Ali Tarhan took the Chair.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

The Chairman, thanking the Committee for the honour it had done him, recalled that the Committee had been set up, in pursuance of the decision taken on 6 July 1949 by the Economic and Social Council at its ninth session in Geneva, to "consider the possibilities of reaching an interim agreement for limiting the production of raw opium to medical and scientific needs", a task which had been defined in practically the same words as long ago as the meeting of the Shanghai Committee in 1909.

He proceeded to review the historical background of the question, mentioning the preparatory measures for convening a conference, to deal with the problem taken in 1931 by the Council and Assembly of the League of Nations, and the opinions expressed in 1936 by the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs of the League of Nations, as to the urgent necessity for taking steps to ensure adequate control of the cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of raw opium.

During the recent war, the Government of the United States of America had addressed notes to opium producing countries, in which it had put forward proposals for promoting the conclusion of an international agreement for limiting the production of opium.

Shortly after the United Nations had taken over the powers and functions previously exercised by the League of Nations in fields of the international control of narcotics, the Economic and Social Council, at its fourth session, had recognized the urgency of the problem. In implementation of the decision then

/taken, the

taken, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had addressed a questionnaire to the countries concerned, requesting them to provide statistics, in some detail, relating to the production of raw opium.

Since that time, the problem had assumed over increasing importance in the discussions in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council. Thus, it had come in time to be explicitly mentioned in the Resolution on the Simplification of Existing International Instruments on Narcotic Drugs (159 (VII) II - D) adopted by the Council on 3 August 1948, which concluded with the following passage:

"This single convention shall replace the above-mentioned instruments relating to narcotic drugs and also include provisions for the limitation of the production of narcotic raw materials."

Finally, he would draw attention to the special resolution adopted by the Council on 3 August 1948 (159 (VII) II - E) which read:

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

REQUESTS the Secretary-General:

1. To initiate studies and enquiries on the desirability of convening a conference of the opium-producing countries and of countries using opium in the manufacture of drugs for medical and scientific needs for the purpose of reaching an interim commodity agreement limiting the production and export of opium to these needs, pending the adoption of an international convention on the limitation of raw materials used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs;
2. To submit the results of these studies and enquiries to the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs."

In accordance with the above request, the Secretary-General had duly provided the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the necessary documentation. The Commission, after a thorough study of the problem, had decided to set up a Sub-Committee, composed of the representatives of India, Iran, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, to consider the desirability of convening the proposed conference and to report back.

The meetings of the Sub-Committee had been attended by representatives of all the countries mentioned, except the Soviet Union, and had resulted in unanimous agreement as to the

/desirability of

desirability of reaching an interim agreement for limiting the production and export of raw opium to medical and scientific needs.

In its report, the Sub-Committee had proposed that an Ad hoc Committee be set up, composed of representatives of the principal opium-producing countries, namely, India, Iran, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia. It had further stated that that Committee should meet as soon as possible during 1949: it had also defined its terms of reference and had made suggestions as to subjects which the Ad hoc Committee might usefully consider.

The Sub-Committee had also recognized that the close collaboration of the manufacturing countries was indispensable to the success of the proposed agreement.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to incorporate the recommendations of the Sub-Committee in its Report to the Economic and Social Council on its fourth session. Subsequently, the Council in turn had adopted the resolution he had mentioned at the beginning of his speech.

Such was the historical background of the task confronting the Committee.

He then welcomed individually representatives of the Governments of the producing countries, their alternates and advisers; the observers for other members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; the Chairman of the Commission; and members of the Committee Secretariat.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the Committee would prove successful in its delicate and difficult task, on the outcome of which depended the whole future of the strict and effective international control of dangerous drugs.

#### 4. PROGRAMME OF WORK

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN,  
the Committee decided to defer consideration and adoption of its agenda (item 1 of the agenda) until the next meeting.

On the further proposals of the CHAIRMAN,  
the Committee decided to meet each day, except, in principle, on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN announced that, if necessity arose, the Secretariat would prepare press releases.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.