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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Eighth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 30 March 1953, at 11.00 a.m.

CONTENTS

Opening of the session.

Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the  
Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs.

Draft resolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
concerning the representation of China.

Election of officers.

Organization of the work of the Commission and adoption of the  
agenda (E/CN.7/248, E/CN.7/248/Add.1/Rev.1).

PRESENT:Acting Chairman,later Chairman:Rapporteur:Members:

Mr. RABASA	Mexico
Mr. NIKOLIC	Yugoslavia
Mr. SHARMAN	Canada
Mr. LIANG	China
Mr. EZZAT	Egypt
Mr. VAILLE	France
Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY	India
Mr. ARDALAN	Iran
Mr. KRUYSSSE	Netherlands
Mr. KULAGA	Poland
Dr. OR	Turkey
Mr. ZONOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. WALKER	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. ANSLINGER	United States of America
<u>Also present:</u> Mr. MAY	Permanent Central Opium Board

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss BANOS	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. ARNALDO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. WOLFF	World Health Organization (WHO)

Secretariat:

Mr. GEORGES PICOT	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs
Mr. YATES	Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs
Mr. CELINSKI	Secretary of the Commission

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared the eighth session of the Commission open.

## STATEMENT BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General) welcomed the Commission on behalf of the Secretary-General. Since the opening of the previous session he had had an opportunity of becoming more fully acquainted with the members of the Commission and of following their work attentively. The balanced composition of the Commission, the technical qualifications of its members and the spirit in which it discharged its duties were regarded by the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations in general as an earnest of the efficiency of its activities in relation to narcotic drugs. He was particularly pleased at the close collaboration that had grown up between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization, the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Supervisory Body.

At its previous session the Commission had started to consider the single draft convention; it had examined in detail the drafting of some articles and had given the Secretariat instructions about the changes which it wished to have made. It was now preparing to continue that long, delicate and most important task.

One of the most urgent problems it had to solve was the limitation of the production of raw opium, since any over-production encouraged illicit traffic. Pending the completion of the single convention, the Commission had prepared to that end a draft protocol to apply to raw opium the principles of the 1931 Convention. The international diplomatic conference on opium convened by the Economic and Social Council would meet in six weeks to examine that draft.

He reviewed the Commission's other tasks. The governments were endeavouring not only to restore the control of narcotic drugs to its pre-war standard but also to improve it. With a small and decreasing number of exceptions they were submitting regularly to the Secretariat annual reports on the application of the

international instruments relating to narcotic drugs, the texts of the relevant laws and regulations, and reports on the principal cases of seizure. The examination of that ample documentary material, which was summarized and analysed by the Secretariat, was one of the Commission's traditional functions.

The Commission had long been examining the problem of synthetic narcotic drugs and, in co-operation with WHO, had already obtained tangible results. It would no doubt wish to return to that problem during its eighth session, since the rapid progress of modern science raised some important questions.

He also referred to the scientific research on narcotic drugs which the Secretariat's chemists had undertaken in collaboration with scientists from various countries. That research was a remarkable example of international co-operation under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Commission would continue to be concerned about the part played by hashish in international illicit traffic. The Secretariat would undertake further studies of that problem if the Commission thought them likely to be useful.

The Secretariat was continuing to publish the Bulletin on Narcotics, retaining as far as possible its dual character as a scientific publication and a source of information. In response to the wishes expressed by the Commission in the previous year, it had prepared with the assistance of specialists a special number of the Bulletin devoted to heroin; this it was hoped could be distributed to the members of the Commission before the end of the session.

The new Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs needed no introduction. Mr. Yates was personally known to most members of the Commission, who had had an opportunity of appreciating his intelligence, tact and competence and his courtesy and impartiality when he had been secretary of the Economic and Social Council.

In conclusion, Mr. Picot assured the Commission that he would follow its work with great interest; he gave it the Secretary-General's best wishes for the success of the session.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for his statement.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE REPRESENTATION OF CHINA

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China did not recognize the right of the Kuomintang group to represent China, regarded as illegal the continued presence of that group in the United Nations, and requested that it should be expelled. The USSR 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. Consequently his delegation was submitting the following draft resolution:

"The Commission on Narcotic Drugs decides:

- (a) To expel the representative of the Kuomintang group;
- (b) To invite the representative of the People's Republic of China to participate in its work".

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) moved that the Commission adjourn debate on the representation of China under rule 45 of the rules of procedure. His Government had already on several occasions opposed the expulsion of the representative of the Government of China and the admission of a Chinese Communist representative. At a time when the Chinese Communist regime was showing by the methods it used in Korea that it cared nothing for the decisions of the United Nations and had no respect for the Organization's principles and purposes, no United Nations organ could adopt any other attitude. Under rule 45 of the rules of procedure the United States proposal should be voted immediately. If it were adopted, the legitimate representative of the Government of China would be able to continue to take a useful part in the Commission's work.

Mr. KULAGA (Poland) supported the USSR draft resolution. The person then sitting in the Commission represented only a group of politicians whom the Chinese people had repudiated. The only spokesman of the Chinese people who could defend their interests in the Commission was the representative of the People's Republic of China. The United States proposal was merely a manoeuvre designed to prevent the Commission from deciding an important question.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN said that under rule 50, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure motions for adjournment had priority over all other proposals. The Commission would therefore vote first on the United States proposal.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he could not accept the Chairman's decision. By adopting the motion for adjournment submitted by the United States of America, the Commission would be depriving the legitimate representative of a great people of the opportunity of taking part in its meetings, and at the same time would restrict the scope of its work and lessen the authority of its decisions. It was important, therefore, that the Commission should decide on the substance of the matter by voting on the USSR draft resolution.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN observed that the representative of the USSR had contested a ruling by the chair. Under rule 44 of the rules of procedure the Commission should therefore vote immediately either to uphold or reject that ruling.

The Chairman's ruling was upheld by 11 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal of the United States of America.

The proposal was adopted by 9 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he considered that decision unjustified and illegal. The only legitimate representative of China was the representative of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. KULAGA (Poland) supported the USSR representative's statement.

Mr. WALKER (United Kingdom) explained that his vote for the United States proposal should not be interpreted to mean that the government of the United Kingdom thought the Commission competent to decide questions of representation such as the present one.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America), supported by Mr. SHARMAN (Canada), proposed the re-election of the former officers. That practice, which was often employed, had the advantage of ensuring continuity in the Commission's work.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he agreed to the re-election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, but asked that a vote be taken on the candidature of Mr. Nikolic for the post of Rapporteur.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN noted that no objection had been raised against the re-election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Rabasa (Mexico) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Vaille (France) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Commission for the confidence it had expressed in him and assured it that he would do all he could to discharge his functions in the best possible way.

In compliance with the request of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Commission must next proceed to the election of the Rapporteur, which under rule 62 of the rules of procedure must be conducted by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Krishnamoorthy (India) and Mr. Kruysse (Netherlands) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers</u>	14
<u>Number of valid ballots</u>	14
<u>Abstentions</u>	3
<u>Number of valid votes cast</u>	11
<u>Required majority</u>	6
<u>Number of votes obtained</u>	11

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Nikolic (Yugoslavia) was elected Rapporteur.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (E/CN.7/248, E/CN.7/248/Add.1/Rev.1)

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Commission would meet twice a day, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Mr. SHARMAN (Canada) proposed that when the Chairman was detained by his other duties and could not be present to open the meeting, his place should automatically be taken by the Vice-Chairman.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) approved that procedure as in accordance with parliamentary usage and likely to expedite the Commission's work.

The proposal was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Commission to examine the provisional agenda (E/CN.7/248) and submit their observations on the proposed items and the order in which they should be considered.

Mr. VAILLE (France) noted that many documents, including those on Indian hemp and programme priorities in the field of narcotic drugs, had not yet been translated into French. He asked that the Commission should not begin to deal with a matter until the French text of the relevant documents had been distributed.



The CHAIRMAN observed that the two questions mentioned by the French representative appeared on the agenda as items 15 and 16. He hoped the Secretariat would be able to publish the French text of the documents relating to those questions before the Commission considered them.

Mr. ANSLINGER (United States of America) proposed that the draft resolution concerning the reports on the abolition of opium-smoking (item 8 on the provisional agenda) and the Burmese proposal relating to the co-ordination of efforts to suppress poppy cultivation and the smuggling of opium (item 10 (b) on the provisional agenda), which had the same purpose and concerned especially the Far East, should be combined into a single agenda item. If that proposal were adopted, item 10, entitled "Illicit traffic", would be subdivided as follows:

- (a) Reports on the illicit traffic;
- (b) Proposal of Burma, etc.;
- (c) Abolition of opium-smoking in the Far East.

He further proposed that after those subjects the Commission should enter in the agenda as sub-item 10 (d) the question of the illicit traffic engaged in by the crews of ships.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that a sub-committee should be appointed to revise the provisional agenda in the light of the observations made at the meeting, and submit a revised agenda to the Commission. Also, in compliance with the desire expressed by the representative of Egypt, the officers of the Commission would draw up a calendar of meetings.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would like arrangements to be made for the translation into Russian of the documents referred to in document E/CN.7/248/Add.1/Rev.1 and relating to items 3 (Progress report of the Division of Narcotic Drugs), 5 (The proposed single convention on narcotic drugs), 9 (Revision of the Form of annual reports), 12 (List of narcotic drugs under international control), 14 (The problem of synthetic drugs) and 15 (The problem of Indian hemp). The publication in Russian of these

documents, which were for the most part very technical, would assist his delegation in following the Commission's work.

Mr. YATES (Secretariat) recalled the distinction made by the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council between the official languages and the working languages. Rule 34 of those rules of procedure provided that resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions should be made available in the official languages; but the rules of procedure made no provision for the previous publication of other documents in the five official languages. The Secretariat, of course, did all it could to satisfy requests submitted to it for the translation of documents into Chinese, Spanish and Russian, but it was not bound to make such translations, especially before the agenda had been adopted.

Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was well aware of the distinction but hoped it would be possible to comply with his request.

The CHAIRMAN assured him that the Secretariat would try to satisfy the delegation of the Soviet Union.

Mr. SHARMAN (Canada) said he would like to see included in the agenda the question of the export of coca leaves from Peru, to which attention was drawn in Chapter V of the progress report of the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the sub-committee should make a special agenda item out of that question, which was included in the provisional agenda under the item entitled "Other business".

He invited the representatives of Canada and Turkey to join the officers of the Commission in constituting the Sub-Committee for the revision of the agenda.

It was decided that the Sub-Committee as thus established should draw up a draft revised agenda to be considered by the Commission at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.