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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Committee on substances not
under international control

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith information on the control of stimulant, sedative and hallucinogenic drugs submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for consideration by the Committee.

1. Until recently the problem of drug abuse in the United Kingdom was small. Legislation was passed from time to time to give effect to the requirements of international controls over narcotic drugs, culminating in the Dangerous Drugs Act 1964 which implemented new requirements introduced by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. This Act (since consolidated) enables new substances to be brought under control but only if the Narcotics Commission or the World Health Organisation decide, or appear likely to decide, that amendment of the relevant Schedule to the Convention is necessary. The Act does not permit the United Kingdom Government to impose on other substances of its own choosing the strict control imposed thereunder on substances scheduled under the Convention.

Stimulant drugs

2. After misuse of stimulant drugs by young persons came to notice in 1963 the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act was passed in 1964. This applies to the following scheduled amphetamine and amphetamine-like substances and preparations containing them:-

Amphetamine	Pemoline
Benzphetamine	Phenatine
Chlorphentermine	Phendimetrazine
Dexamphetamine	Phenmetrazine
Diethylpropion	Phenpromethamine
Doxapram	Phentermine
Fenoamfamin	Phenylpropylmethylamine
Levamphetamine	Pipradrol
Mephentermine	Prolintane
(Methamphetamine)	Tranylecypromine
()	
(Methylamphetamine)	
Methylphenidate	

3. Under separate legislation controlling poisons all the substances mentioned above may be sold at retail only by an authorised seller of poisons, from registered premises, on prescription and the sale has to be effected by, or under the supervision of, a registered pharmacist. The Act reinforced these restrictions by making unlawful possession of the scheduled drugs an offence, listing classes of persons who are authorised to be in possession such as those

who have professional need of the drugs and persons for whom they have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist or veterinarian, and requiring manufacturers and dealers to be registered and importers to be licensed.

4. It was thought undesirable to introduce other restrictions of the kind applied to narcotic drugs, e.g. safeguarding of stock, keeping of records, because of the burden that this would place on the manufacturers, dealers and other persons with legitimate reasons for handling these substances.

5. The Act has been fully in force for some eighteen months. During that time there have been about 1200 convictions in England and Wales for offences against the Act. Of these about 140 appeared to involve illicit trafficking. The others were mainly of persons found in unauthorised possession of the drugs. In the same period 28 persons were convicted under the Larceny Act for theft of amphetamines etc. and 15 for forgery of prescriptions.

6. The press have reported many of these prosecutions and public awareness of the problems of which this use of stimulants may give rise is growing. Despite the controls introduced by the Act quantities of amphetamines continue in illicit circulation and a review is being undertaken of the working of the Act in order to assess its effectiveness and to see what further steps can be taken to discourage the misuse of these and other non-narcotic substances by young persons.

Sedatives

7. Barbiturates, like amphetamines may be obtained only from an authorised seller of poisons on prescription. It would be possible to bring these drugs under the control of the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act 1965, but there has not hitherto appeared evidence of any necessity for this.

Hallucinogens

8. LSD-25 (lysergic acid diethylamide) and psilocybin are controlled under the poisons law and are obtainable only from an authorised seller of poisons on prescription, the sale having to be effected by, or under the supervision of, a registered pharmacist. The supply of these substances is to be further restricted by making them available at retail only to doctors, and persons and institutions that require them for research. There has been some recent evidence of misuse of LSD-25 in London and some other cities and consideration is being given to control this substance, psilocybin and mescaline, under the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act.