

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

E/C.S.7/40/Rev.1
20 December 1946
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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF TENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, Tuesday 3 December 1946, at 2:30 p.m.

Present:

Chairman: Colonel C. H. L. Sharman (Canada)

Vice-Chairman: Dr S. Tubiasz (Poland)

Rapporteur: Dr. Szeming Sze (China)

Mr. Mohamed Amin Zaki (Egypt)

Mr. G. Bourgois (France)

Mr. H. Greenfield (India)

Mr. A. G. Panahy (Iran)

Mr. J. Quevedo Bazan (Mexico)

Mr. J. H. Delgorge (Netherlands)

Dr. J. A. Lazarte (Peru)

Mr. Fikret Belbez (Turkey)

Major W. H. Coles (United Kingdom)

Mr. J. Anslinger (United States of America)

Mr. V. Zuev (USSR)

Mr. S. Krasovec (Yugoslavia)

Mr. Herbert May
President of the Permanent
Central Opium Board, and Member
of the Supervisory Body

Secretariat: Mr. L. Steinig
Director of the Narcotic
Division

Mr. V. Pastuhov
Secretary of the Commission

1. Preparation of draft resolution on the problem of limitation of the production of raw materials used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs.

Mr. KRASOVEC (YUGOSLAVIA) stated that the Commission had before it a concrete proposal from the United States referring to the invitation sent two years ago by the American Government to the other States to call an International Conference on the limitation of raw materials used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs. He thought the Commission might make a

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recommendation to the Economic and Social Council concerning this conference and forward to Governments the documents in its possession, together with recommendations. He mentioned a League of Nations document (League of Nations document C.175.M.104,1939) which was the outcome of lengthy discussion and hard work before the war. In his view, this document, accompanied by a note from the Secretariat dealing with happenings during the war which should be taken into account in drawing up the recommendations, might serve as a basis for study of the problem of the limitation of raw materials. He suggested that the United States representative should make more detailed recommendations on the calling of the Conference.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to paragraph 4 of Section II of document E/C.S.7/6, on which had been founded a draft resolution which might be submitted to the Commission.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) hoped that the questionnaire mentioned in the resolution was limited to raw opium. It seemed to him that there were some omissions, and that morphine derived from poppy straw, for instance, and certain synthetic preparations, ought to be included.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the present discussion would enable them to remedy difficulties of that kind.

Mr. STEINIG (DIRECTOR OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION), suggested that wherever opium was mentioned in the questionnaire the words, "and other raw materials from which opium alkaloids are extracted", might be added. In any case the Secretariat would like to have precise instructions on this point. It was a question of defining the range of the raw materials involved, without losing sight of the problem of synthetic drugs.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the same opinion. The purpose of the questionnaire was to ask for detailed information which would enable them to prepare the statistics required to assist them in the campaign against

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the illicit traffic. Without information on synthetic products, they would not have the necessary data for determining the extent to which certain drugs were replaced by others.

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) felt that in drafting the questionnaire, raw materials and synthetic materials should be kept distinct. He instanced demerol, which was basically nothing but coal tar, and should therefore be mentioned separately.

The CHAIRMAN said that they would have to determine, for instance, whether opium substitutes were used in place of morphine and be able to establish the proportionate consumption of morphine and that of substitutes. As regards demerol, they would be in a better position to express an opinion on that when they came to study drug addiction.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) pointed out that demerol was tending to take the place of morphine. When the amount of demerol manufactured was supervised, after evidence from addicts, it was found to be already more than ten times that of morphine. That was why demerol had been immediately put under control. Its consumption had continued to increase and the 1946 figure was the highest yet reached.

The CHAIRMAN suggested it should be recorded in the minutes that henceforward whenever demerol was mentioned, as the United Kingdom representative had already suggested, it should be taken to mean a group of identical products but with different names, i.e., dolantine, pethidine, isonipecaine, etc.

The Commission then went on to consider in detail the draft resolution, to which minor textual amendments were made on the proposal of the representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, India, China and Peru. 7

Regarding paragraph 4 of the resolution, Mr. KRASOVEC (YUGOSLAVIA) asked why the resolution laid down that they must await the calling of a
/conference;

conference; had they not already sufficient information to complete the preliminary work?

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) was convinced that, even with the results of the work done during the war, they were not in a position to submit to a conference sufficient information for the preparation of a convention. That would have been possible if work had been carried on continuously, but there had been an interruption of seven years, during which the situation had considerably changed. They now had to bring the available information up to date and complete it in the light of the present position. They were not yet ready to ask the Economic and Social Council to call a conference.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) and the CHAIRMAN supported these remarks. As the completion of questionnaires always took considerable time, he suggested that a member of the Secretariat might perhaps be sent to collect the replies.

Mr. STEINIG (DIRECTOR OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION) explained that in present circumstances the Secretariat was not in a position to suggest speedier methods than those proposed in the draft resolution. In any case, governments must first collect the necessary information before they could supply it. For opium alone, a mission of that kind would have to include the following countries: Yugoslavia, Turkey, Iran, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, India, China and even Chile and Argentina. Even if the questionnaire were sent out at once, the Secretariat would not receive the replies before May. Moreover, the questionnaire could not be sent immediately as it must receive the prior approval of the Economic and Social Council, which was not due to meet until February.

Mr. KRASOVEC (YUGOSLAVIA) acknowledged that the changes in the situation made more extensive information necessary and expressed his
/satisfaction

satisfaction with the explanations given. He approved the broad outline of the resolution.

Mr. BOURGOIS (FRANCE) felt that obviously no very rapid progress could be made at present. Conditions had changed and account must be taken of the many new factors affecting crops, stocks, exports and imports, prices and even rates of exchange, but he believed these new data could be obtained easily. Since steps were being taken to reorganize agriculture all over the world, a resumption of poppy cultivation on too large a scale must be prevented. Countries ought to know their position in this matter as soon as possible and for that reason it was important to speed up the work of the Commission.

In reply to a remark by Mr. GREENFIELD (INDIA), who stated that the Commission could rest assured that its members would see that replies to the questionnaire were forwarded by their respective Governments as quickly as possible, the CHAIRMAN acknowledged that that was a moral obligation. It would only solve one small part of the problem, however, for replies were required, above all from the other countries which were consumers of morphine and morphine substitutes. An exact assessment of world requirements had to be obtained.

Mr. GREENFIELD (INDIA) proposed that for paragraph 5 of the resolution should be substituted the following: "Subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council, decides to issue to the Governments concerned a questionnaire requesting such information; this questionnaire should be drawn up by the Secretariat in the light of the views expressed at the present session of the Commission".

The CHAIRMAN felt that the above wording would place too heavy a responsibility on the Secretariat. It would be desirable to mention that the questionnaire must be approved by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

/Dr. Szeming SZE

Dr. Szeming SZE (CHINA), Rapporteur, observed that this proposal was in effect the same as the one he had made just previously and asked why the resolution proposed postponement until next session of study of the questionnaire of the coca leaf.

Mr. STEINIG (DIRECTOR OF NARCOTICS DIVISION) reminded them that the questions of opium and the coca leaf had been dissociated by the League of Nations as long ago as 1936, on the proposal of the Advisory Committee. Since then, preparatory work had been concentrated on the question of opium. For that reason, the Secretariat was not yet in possession of the information necessary for the immediate preparation of a detailed questionnaire on the coca leaf.

DECISION: The proposals of the Indian delegation and of the CHAIRMAN were approved. The text of the resolution was adopted unanimously.

In reply to a question by the CHAIRMAN, Mr. MAY (PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT CENTRAL OPIUM BOARD) gave an assurance that the Board would do its utmost speedily to furnish the Secretariat with all such information in its possession as the Secretariat might desire.

The meeting rose at 4:20 p.m.