

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Wednesday,  
27 November 1946, at 10:30 a.m.

Present:

- |              |                      |   |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| Chairman:    | Colonel Sharman      | (Canada)  |
|              | Dr. Sze              | (China)   |
|              | Mr. M.A. Zaki        | (Egypt)   |
|              | Mr. G. Bourgois      | (France)  |
|              | Mr. N. Entezam       | (Iran)  |
|              | Dr. J. Quevedo Bazan | (Mexico)  |
|              | Mr. J.H. Delgorge    | (Netherlands)   |
|              | Mr. J.A. Lazarte     | (Peru)  |
|              | Dr. S. Tubiasz       | (Poland)  |
|              | Mr. F. Belbez        | (Turkey)  |
|              | Major W.H. Coles     | (United Kingdom)  |
|              | Mr. J. Anslinger     | (United States)   |
|              | Mr. V. Zuev          | (USSR)  |
|              | Mr. S. Krasovec      | (Yugoslavia)  |
| Secretariat: | Mr. H. Laugier       | (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs) |
|              | Mr. L. Steinig       | (Director, Narcotics Division)  |

Opening of the Session

Mr. LAUGIER (ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS) welcomed the representatives in the name of the Economic and Social Council and of the Secretary-General.

Reviewing the rapid evolution of legislation and international organization in the field of narcotics, he recalled the series of conventions and international agreements adopted between 1909 and 1936, which had led to the establishment of a permanent international organization entrusted with the task of dealing with the various aspects of the problem of narcotics.

Briefly alluding to the powers and functions of the organization, he

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stressed in particular the importance of the fact that it had been given the right to put an embargo on the export of drugs, not only to contracting parties which failed to carry out their obligations under the various conventions, but also to countries not Parties to the conventions. This precedent was of great importance, since the universality of international control was, with permanency and continuity, one of the essential conditions of its success.

Universality had been established by the Conventions; permanency and continuity would be assured by the United Nations.

Recalling the steps taken by the Secretary-General to carry out the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in February 1946, Mr. LAUGIER expressed the hope that sufficient signatures would soon be received to put into force the recently adopted Protocol amending the international conventions and transferring certain powers exercised under those conventions to the United Nations, thus giving the competent organs of the United Nations the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Supervisory Body a firm juridical basis on which to continue their work.

The Commission would have the duty of safeguarding the results already achieved in international control; in this connection the Secretariat had enumerated the tasks involved in document E/C.S.7/4.

In order to achieve further progress, the Commission would also have to turn its attention to the urgent problem of the limitation and control of the production of raw materials used in the manufacture of dangerous drugs; in this respect it must prepare draft conventions and make arrangements for international conferences.

One of the urgent problems which it must also tackle, was a study of new drugs and the means of placing them rapidly under international control.

In all those tasks, the Secretariat would give all possible help.

#### Election of Chairman

Mr. LAUGIER (ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL) called for nominations for

DECISION: On the proposal of Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES), seconded by Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) and supported by Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS), Mr. ZAKI (EGYPT) and Mr. ENTEZAM (IRAN), Colonel SHARMAN (CANADA) was elected Chairman by acclamation and took his place in the Chair.

Election of Vice-Chairman

The CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the vice-chairmanship.

DECISION: On the proposal of Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM), seconded by Mr. ENTEZAM (IRAN), and supported by Dr. SZE (CHINA) and Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS), Dr. TUBIASZ (POLAND) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Election of Rapporteur

The CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the position of Rapporteur.

DECISION: On the proposal of Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS), seconded by Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) and supported by Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM), Dr. SZE (CHINA) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Message from Sir Thomas RUSSELL

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) said that he had received from Russell Pasha a letter asking that the Committee be informed of his regret that, since he had left the service of the Government of Egypt he could not attend the meeting as a representative of that country. He would, however, follow the work of the Commission with the keenest interest and sent his best wishes for its success. Russell Pasha had added that he hoped the members had received copies of his last report as Director of the Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission ask the Secretariat to acknowledge the message received from Sir Thomas Russell, to send him the Commission's best wishes and to express its regret at his absence.

Mr. ZAKI (EGYPT) recalled that Russell Pasha had been in the service of the Egyptian Government for many years, and had earned its gratitude for the great services he had rendered, not only in the field of narcotics, but in many spheres.

DECISION: It was agreed that the remarks of the representative for Egypt would be embodied in the letter which the Secretariat would address to Sir Thomas Russell in accordance with the Chairman's proposal.

Statement by the representative for China

On behalf of the Chinese delegation, Dr. SZE (CHINA) stated that the Executive Yuan had appointed three representatives to attend the meetings of the Commission in view of the importance which it attached to the questions under discussion, and their special interest to China.

Dr. P.C. CHANG had asked Dr. Sze to convey his regrets to the meeting, since his duties in connection with the General Assembly precluded his presence; he hoped, however, to be able to attend some of the future meetings.

Mr. T.H. Liu, a Director of the Central Commission on Opium Suppression, had just made a hurried trip from Nanking, at great personal discomfort, bringing valuable up-to-date material regarding the suppression of the illicit traffic in China, covering the period since the outbreak of the war.

Hours of Meetings

DECISION: On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, it was provisionally agreed that meetings would be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or later if necessary, subject to confirmation by the Secretariat that transport arrangements could be made to fit in with those hours.

Discussion of Draft Rules of Procedure

Article 1

1. Regular Sessions.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) suggested that the alternative of these two proposals was the more desirable. This view was supported by Mr. KRASOVEC (YUGOSLAVIA).

DECISION: The alternative of the two proposals was adopted without discussion.

2. Special Sessions.

3. Place of Sessions.

DECISION: Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 1 were adopted without discussion.

Article 2

1. Regular Session.

Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS) asked that there could be more than two months' notice of the regular session, since that did not allow time enough to secure a passage.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in practice the date of the next session would be known at the end of each session. The Secretariat could, however, notify the date three months in advance if the Commission so desired.

Mr. ZAKI (EGYPT) agreed that this paragraph was unnecessary since the alternative in paragraph 1 of Article 1 had been adopted, and Mr. ENTEZAM (IRAN) associated himself with this opinion.

Dr. SZE (CHINA) shared the views of the delegates of Egypt and Iran, adding that they did not need notice of the date of the next session as much as up-to-date agenda. He suggested that the wording should be amended to read that the agenda would be furnished two or three months before the session.

DECISION: The wording of paragraph 1 of Article 2 was amended to read as follows: "Confirmation of the date of the regular session, together with provisional agenda, shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the Commission, the President of the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Chairman of the Supervisory Body two months in advance of the session."

## 2. Special Sessions.

Mr. KRASOVEC (YUGOSLAVIA) suggested that agenda should be furnished at the same time as the date of special sessions, and Mr. KAKI (EGYPT) supported this proposal.

DECISION: The words "together with the provisional agenda" were inserted after the words "notice of a special session."

## Article 3

Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS) pointed out that according to the wording of this article, the next session of the Narcotics Commission would open without a Chairman. He suggested that the wording should be amended to allow the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of one session to remain in office until their successors had been elected at the opening of the following session. This would also avoid the risk of the Commission being

left without officers in the event of anything occurring to prevent the holding of the regular session any year.

Major COLES (UNITED KINGDOM) associated himself with this suggestion, adding, merely as a point of drafting, that the omission of the words "of the following year" would cover the possibility of there being a year when the regular session could not be held.

Mr. ENTEZAM (IRAN) supported the Netherlands suggestion, adding that provision should also be made for the possibility of the Chairman of one session no longer being a delegate of his government at the following session. In this case he suggested that the delegate of that government should take the Chair at the opening of the session.

Mr. ZAKI (EGYPT) considered the remark of the delegate of Iran of great significance. If both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should cease to represent their countries, he considered that a special session should be convened at once to elect new officers, since they were chosen not as much as representatives of their governments as for their personal value in the field of narcotics.

Dr. SZE (CHINA) thought the difficulties were perhaps being exaggerated. The Narcotic Commission was likely to be more stable than a purely political Commission. According to Article 10, this Commission would be bound to follow the general procedure of the Economic and Social Council, in which case a temporary Chairman would be elected were both Chairman and Vice-Chairman to fall out.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) and Mr. ZUE (USSR) agreed with the delegate of China.

Mr. ENTEZAM (IRAN) said that, while he had not been convinced by any arguments so far adduced, he realized that this was an unimportant point and had no wish to insist.

The CHAIRMAN read out the proposed amended wording of Article 3 as follows: "The term of office of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur shall begin with the regular session and shall continue until

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their successors have been elected at the next regular session."

DECISION: The wording as above was adopted.

Article 4

Mr. DELGORGE (NETHERLANDS) suggested that the word "representatives" should be in the singular.

DECISION: Article 4 was adopted with the above amendment.

Article 5

Dr. SZE (CHINA) said that this article seemed to him to be superfluous, and Mr. STEINIG (SECRETARIAT) stated that the Secretariat did not insist upon its inclusion.

DECISION: Article 5 was deleted and the following articles re-numbered accordingly.

Article 6

Dr. SZE (CHINA) did not consider an Agenda Sub-Committee necessary, but would like to see something in the rules of procedure giving the Commission power to appoint ad hoc Committees in general.

Mr. ANSLINGER (UNITED STATES) agreed with this suggestion, adding that the Secretariat could prepare the Agenda and submit it to the Commission for adoption.

The CHAIRMAN associated himself with the opinions expressed by the last two delegates, and invited Mr. Steinig to give the Commission the views of the Secretariat upon this point.

Mr. STEINIG informed the Commission that the Secretariat would submit a special document on the question of Sub-Committees, in accordance with Point 7 of the Agenda. He suggested, therefore, that they should postpone discussion of Article 6 until this document had been examined.

DECISION: Discussion of Article 6 to be postponed.

Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10.

DECISION: Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 were adopted without discussion.

The meeting rose at 12:55 p.m.