

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.7/274
5 March 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Fourth session
Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

ILLCIT TRAFFIC

International Co-operation: Economic and Social Council Resolution 436 C (XIV)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Commission will recall that at its eighth session it had before it document E/CN.7/257 containing communications received from governments in connexion with Economic and Social Council resolution 436 C (XIV) of 27 May 1952, which had been brought to their attention by circular note CN.93.1952.NARCOTICS of 29 July 1952.
2. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Commission five further communications which have been received since the circulation of the above-mentioned document.

Afghanistan, 31 August 1953

" the Ministry of Economy in Kabul is the government department which exercises control of the illicit traffic of narcotic drugs."

Federal Republic of Germany, 23 March 1953

" upon reviewing its preventive system the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has reached the conclusion that its preventive measures are adequate to combat the illicit traffic in narcotics within the Federal territory."

Hungary, 10 March 1953

" At present the below enumerated laws are in force in the Hungarian People's Republic in connection with the control of narcotics:

"1. Law No. XXXVII/1930/ enacts the 'International Opium Convention' which had been adopted at Geneva, 19 February 1925.

"2. Law No. VIII/1933/ enacts the agreement pertaining to curtailment of the production and to the regulation of narcotic drugs, which had been adopted at Geneva, 13 July 1931.

"3. Edict No. M.E.2222/1934/ relates to the enforcement of the foregoing two international agreements.

"4. Edict No. M.E.6800/1937/ concerns modification of provisions contained in clause 3, Section 11 of Edict No. M.E.2222/1934/.

"5. Edict No. B.M. 260/1934/ refers to publication of a memorandum regarding ratification of the 'International Opium Convention', that is by the states signatory thereto, adopted at Geneva, 19 February 1925, and enacted by Law No. XXXVII/1930/.

"6. Edict No. B.M. 261/1934/ pertains to publication of a memorandum, embodying ratification of the 'International Convention', by states signatory thereto in the matter of limiting manufacture and regulating distribution of narcotics, as agreed to at Geneva, 13 July 1931, and enacted in Law No. VIII/1933/.

"7. Edict No. B.M./1934/ supplements Edict No. B.M. 261/1934/.

"8. Edict No. B.M. 262/1934/ relates to a memorandum concerning the use of poisonous narcotics suitable for pathological consumption.

"9. Edict No. B.M. 195,200/1934/ sets forth the formation of a 'Central Organ' designed to control the growth, manufacture and distribution of narcotics.

"10. Edict No. N.M. 3,180-114/XI.3,1950/ pertains to the publication of a new memorandum regarding narcotics suitable for pathological consumption, as well as their distribution and control through pharmacies."

India, 11 May 1953

"A. Opium and other narcotic drugs

"2 The Central Narcotics Department has Opium Intelligence Sections attached to the various Opium Circles in the poppy growing areas, with necessary staff duly vested with the powers to search, seize and arrest illicit traffickers.

"3. To check the clandestine retention of opium by cultivators, a system of preliminary weighments of opium at the cultivator's premises has been started. If, in the final analysis, it is found that the opium delivered by the cultivators is substantially at variance with original weighments, the onus of proving that the cultivator has not retained opium surreptitiously is squarely laid on the shoulders of the cultivator. This step has resulted not only in checking smuggling but also in a greater average out-turn of opium.

"4. A Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau has been attached to the Narcotics Department of the Government of India, and functions under the supervision and guidance of a senior officer of the Department. This Bureau collects information from all sources relating to suppression of illicit traffic, and maintains 'history sheets' of smugglers whose movements and activities are under the close constant and continual surveillance of the Office of the Bureau. The Bureau also arranges for mutual exchange of information between the State Excise and Police authorities. It also gives legal and other advice regarding the investigation and prosecution of opium offences.

"5. With the increase in the pace of the policy of prohibition of intoxicating liquors and narcotic drugs, the Governments of the different States have also established special Prohibition Departments, whose main function it is to check illicit (dealing) in such liquors and drugs.

"6. In the law courts, efforts are made to cure deterrent punishment to drug smugglers.

"7. The Custom Houses at the major seaports of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta have been provided with separate intelligence units to receive information, and to investigate cases, relating to illicit traffic in narcotics.

"8. Information is also exchanged with the authorities in other countries in accordance with the detailed instructions laid down by the Government of India. In all urgent cases, the Collectors of Customs at the major ports are authorized to communicate direct with the concerned authorities in the foreign countries. The Narcotics Commissioner is in correspondence with the various authorities in foreign countries in order to determine changes which may be necessary in the existing arrangements. The latest recommendation of the Economic and Social Council as contained in paragraph (b) of the Resolution 'C' will also be given effect to, to the extent necessary, when the revision of the Memorandum of Instructions is finalized.

"B. Coca-leaves and Indian hemp

"The cultivation of the coca plant is absolutely prohibited in India under Section 4 of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, and the plant does not grow wild in India. So far as 'charas' is concerned, its import is prohibited and the Indian hemp plant, for climate reasons, does not yield enough resin for the production of charas.

"10. The consumption of Indian hemp in the States where it is permitted, is mainly in the form of the wild intoxicants known as 'Ganja' and 'Bhang' which is sold under State licences."

United States of America, 13 August 1953

" the Bureau of Narcotics of the Treasury Department is charged with the duty of regulating, supervising and controlling the traffic in opium and other narcotic drugs, of combating, in co-operation with the Public Health Service, the spread of drug addiction, and of suppressing the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, with which the Bureau has the co-operation of the Bureau of Customs.

"In response to a circular letter from the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, No. C.L.199.1934 XI, the Department of State replied on 13 March 1935, on behalf of the United States Government that the Bureau of Narcotics of the Treasury Department is the administrative agency in the United States which complies with the requirement of Article 15 of the Convention of 1931 that the High Contracting Parties each maintain a special administration for regulating,

supervising and controlling the trade in narcotic drugs and for organizing the campaign against drug addiction by taking all useful steps to prevent its development and to suppress the illicit traffic.

"It is the view of the United States Government that the Bureau of Narcotics as now organized is adequate as the national administration to combat the illicit traffic in narcotics within the United States and its Territories.

"As early as 1928 the United States saw the advantage of the practice of direct communication between national administrations for controlling the illicit traffic. Since then notes have been exchanged with twenty-five States for the purpose of arranging for the direct exchange of certain information, such as photographs, fingerprints and criminal records, regarding traffickers in narcotics, between the Honorable Harry J. Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics, Treasury Department, and the appropriate officer in the foreign country."
